# Daily Report

# Latin America

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Tuesday
1 December 1992

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## Latin America

*FBIS LAT-92-231* *1 December 1992*

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**NOTICE TO READERS:** Effective 30 November, and until further notice, the DAILY REPORT will cease publishing the "Front Page" feature.

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## Cuba

### Castro Speech to Pastors For Peace

*FL0112023492 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 2055 GMT 29 Nov 92*

[Speech by Cuban President Fidel Castro at a meeting with the Pastors For Peace group at the Martin Luther King Memorial Center in Havana on 27 November—recorded]

[Text] [Castro] Dear friends: You probably do not want me to make a speech. [crowd calls out: "Speech, speech!"] You would rather I have a conversation with you and that is what I want to do. I was very impatient to meet with you, because I followed this feat of yours very closely. I wanted to be able to express our gratitude to you directly. I think that very few things as courageous as this have been done. I think we are in a position to appreciate it because we know what it means.

The Reverend Walker spoke about Moses and the deserts which he had to cross. It reminded me that we have also been living in a kind of desert for many years. This gesture of yours, this action, has truly become a waterfall. If Moses could open a path in the sea, you have also created a waterfall in the desert for us, because for so many years we have suffered injustice, for more than 30 years, without any reaction from the world. It has really been a terrible injustice, because there are things which have happened over time, for many years, and sometimes the significance of what the embargo means is not recognized. Really, the blockade, as we call it, is an enormous injustice which we have endured for many years, without enough understanding in the world, whether because of ignorance or confusion, or because the mass media are controlled in one way or another or are at the service of certain interests. People have not been aware of the terrible injustice of this embargo.

Of course for us, we have been able to resist the consequences of the embargo for many years because of certain circumstances. The fact is that 85 percent of our trade was with the former socialist community and Soviet Union. The embargo greatly harmed us. It hindered the development of our country. It impeded our access to technology. It impeded our access to any kind of credit from international organizations, the Inter-American Bank, the World Bank, American banks, credit, financing. All that was inaccessible to us, but also the merchandise that is sold internationally was inaccessible to us. Foodstuffs and medicine were inaccessible to us. It is truly unprincipled—more than a lie, it is unprincipled—to assert that medicine and foodstuffs are not prohibited. They have been prohibited for many years, and they are still prohibited.

I remember that on one occasion there was a big epidemic, and we (?needed) certain products to fight the mosquitoes. It was a dengue epidemic which took the lives of more than 150 people and affected more than 300,000 people. There were days in which up to 11,000 people got sick with hemorrhagic dengue. Also, this epidemic arrived in our country in a strange way, because historically there is evidence that plans were made to use even bacteriological warfare against our country. When we said that, many people did not believe it. However, in later investigations made by the U.S. Senate, it was found that there were plans to introduce bacteriological warfare in our country against plants and animals. We have suffered suspicious, rare, and strange pests here that do not have any logical explanation except for their deliberate introduction, and they have affected agricultural production, especially food production.

In addition to the embargo, there are the hostilities, the constant harrassment, and thousands of things which have happened in addition to the embargo as part of the same policies of trying to make the Cuban people yield. That epidemic I mentioned affected the populace, and there was really no logical explanation, because this kind of epidemic did not exist in any part of the world at that time. There was no logical explanation for how it got here, because all the tests were made, and we reached the conclusion that the epidemic had been introduced. There was no other way to explain why that disease had entered Cuba. It was really very aggressive. It was learned that this kind of virus was being developed in certain research centers in order to be used for bacteriological warfare. We are convinced of that.

At that time, there was a product called (Abate), and in the midst of that big uproar, in the midst of that dramatic situation, we were able to purchase certain amounts from different places. We obtained some (Abate) through Panama to fight the mosquitoes. We applied directly to the U.S. Government, and we were able to get them to sell us, as an exception, that product to control mosquitoes. It was done as something very extraordinary. Because of that dramatic situation we were experiencing, it was very difficult morally for them to say no under those circumstances. So, that time we were allowed to buy that product.

But recently, a young Cuban who was guarding a marina with other comrades, and some disaffected persons who wanted to travel to the United States ... [pauses] This is something that is greatly encouraged. If they ask for legal permission, they are not given it, but if they steal a boat, or if they go on a raft, they serve as propaganda material and they are welcomed with open arms. It does not matter what kind of people they are. It does not matter what crimes they may have committed. They are welcomed, so these kinds of actions are encouraged.

As a result of this, a group of young men who were tied up ... [pauses] They were watchmen. They were taken by surprise and tied up. When they were discovered by chance, they shot the young men they had tied up, apparently so they could not testify who the assailants were. Three died immediately, and one was seriously injured. It was a very painful case. I visited him several times in the hospital, and I saw the way he suffered. He lived 37 days. All the resources of science were applied,

many of our own medical advances, much of the equipment that has been developed in Cuba, and other equipment that has been purchased from abroad. This equipment was used to try to save this young man's life, because the bullets had penetrated his intestines and caused all kinds of infection. It was a very difficult case.

However, there was a medicine, an antibody which is used—I do not remember its name now—to combat toxins, because antibiotics combat bacteria, but by then the bacteria have left toxins, and it is not the bacteria that kills but the toxins. There are some medicines—we have also been working on this kind of medicine—to combat toxins and save lives. We went to Europe to buy that medicine, but it was produced by a U.S. company and the subsidiary of that U.S. company in Europe refused to sell us the medicine. So we had to use third parties to buy the medicine and send it to Havana.

The Torricelli Law even tries to block most of the foodstuffs that we buy outside the United States, because of everything we buy from U.S. subsidiaries abroad—and they know this very well—90 percent is foodstuffs, primarily, and medicine: 90 percent. This law was passed so we cannot buy foodstuffs or medicine on the world market, not in the United States. That is why I say it is very unprincipled to say that medicine can be sold to us. I think that the Torricelli Law has a clause, which says that if medicine is sold to us, there must be U.S. inspectors here in Cuba supervising the way that medicine is used.

I think every hospital would need one of these inspectors, and one by every bed in the hospital to really see how we use U.S. medicine. To buy medicine you need money, and the embargo tends to deprive us of all possibilities of earning income to buy medicine. The embargo is not simply the prohibition of sales. It prohibits Cuban exports, to deprive Cuba of economic resources to buy essential things. That assumes that there is another country that would agree to buy medicine and along with the medicine to have the inspectors to see how that medicine is being used. It is absurd and crazy. It is unprincipled. It is truly very unprincipled to say that medicine is not included in the embargo.

The embargo is much tougher. The embargo is not only those regulations. The embargo is a tenacious and constant harassment of all commercial transactions Cuba carries out. Cuba produces nickel. It is one of the largest ... [pauses] It has one of the largest reserves of nickel in the world and relatively large nickel production, but it is very difficult for Cuba to sell its nickel, not in the United States but in Japan, Europe, anywhere. Why? Because the United States prohibits imports of equipment or steel built with Cuban nickel. So you can imagine, many of the large factories that produce machinery want to export their equipment, which contains some steel, to the United States. When they are prohibited from using Cuban nickel, it is very difficult for Cuba to sell its nickel.

They rigorously harass every business transaction that we try to undertake. Today, the whole U.S. Government apparatus and all the U.S. embassies in the world are working at harassing Cuban commercial operations with foreign countries. It is incredible. It would seem that the U.S. embassies have nothing else to do. This situation is even more serious since the Soviet Union and the socialist bloc have disappeared. All the resources, all the assets, all the apparatus, that were used to fight the USSR and the socialist bloc, that were used in the past to fight China and other countries, all those resources, that whole immense and gigantic apparatus, are all focused against one country. They are all focused against Cuba.

So Cuba, being right next to the United States, today has to withstand the whole weight of that hostility which is being focused on us. What before was used to fight countries that together had a population of more than 1 billion is today being used to fight a population of 10 million, a little over 10.5 million. So we are the one country in the world that is the object of the greatest hostility per capita, the most money per capita to fight it, the most resources per capita, in a campaign of hostility. It is just as I am telling you.

If any businessman from any part of the world wants to have a joint venture with Cuba or establish some type of commercial or financial operation with Cuba or make an investment, the U.S. ambassador will often phone him and meet with him to pressure him and persuade him from carrying out an operation with Cuba, threaten him and pressure him by telling him that later he will not be able to do business in the United States. Since the United States is such a wealthy and powerful country and has such a large market, with the amount of technology the United States has, out of every 10 people who want to conduct operations with us, nine have to desist from doing business with us, at least nine out of every 10 people.

They often come in good faith. They always come in good faith, generally. Industrialists and businessmen come to Cuba, and we tell them not to talk. We tell them not to publicize what they are doing. Very often, because of their good faith, they think that what they are doing is very legal and very moral, and they make it public. Then, immediately, there comes the U.S. Embassy. Very often the U.S. Embassy finds out even when they do not make it public. They have many spies.

The embargo is more than prohibiting the sale of U.S. products or stopping us from buying from the United States. It is ferocious pressure and ferocious harassment in order to prevent us from conducting any type of business transaction. All that immense power is now focused on our country. Today, the embargo harms us even more because we used to have assured fuel supplies from the USSR. We had a guaranteed markets for our goods. We had guaranteed food supplies, many important foods, medicines, many things. Now we have to find them on the world market. In the past we would sell our products, like sugar, at reasonable and fair prices.

On the world market, sugar is not traded at the world market price. The world market is a residual market on which sugar is sold below cost. In fact, most of the sugar that is traded in the world is traded at special prices. The sugar that the United States buys and imports, which is not much ... [pauses] In the past, the United States imported a lot more. When the embargo was imposed on Cuba, they divided the Cuban sugar quota among other countries. The United States imported approximately 5 million tons. Later, with protectionist measures, they increased sugar production from corn and sugarbeets, using glucose and also corn syrup—which has another name—to reduce sugar imports. Finally, they took away the sugar quotas from almost all the countries they had given them to after they began the embargo against Cuba. Today the United States imports barely 1 million tons of sugar. So the sugar that is sold on the world market ... [pauses] that is sold in Europe, the sugar that Europe imports from countries that had relations with the EEC, and the small amounts of sugar the United States imports, are paid at much higher prices.

That is why the embargo is more harmful to us now, because we have to buy 100 percent of our goods on the world market. We have to pay for these goods with our sugar, which gets a very low price. There is another problem in addition to this: the price ratio of sugar and oil. At the beginning of the Revolution, we could buy eight tons of oil with one ton of sugar. Today oil has a monopoly price, a monopoly price. [repeats] Today, you can only buy 1.4 tons of oil with one ton of sugar, which costs so much effort to produce. That is one of the most serious problems we have: the current price ratio between sugar and oil.

Before, we would pay ... [pauses] the USSR would pay us fair and reasonable prices for our sugar. Even though we paid for oil at the current prices, we paid for it with our sugar at high prices. All this was assured for us. When the socialist bloc disappeared, when the USSR disappeared, 85 percent of our trade disappeared. The assurance of being able to sell our products and purchasing imports also disappeared. But when they saw that in spite of all this, we were looking for ways, we were tightening our belts [words indistinct] to resist, and that we would deprive ourselves of many things, they felt that what they had was not enough, and they invented the Torricelli Law.

They did it so that we would not be able to purchase food and medicines on the world market, because many of those U.S. companies and their subsidiaries are the ones that control the world food trade. They are the ones that control many of the goods we used to purchase outside the United States. There is something else, in addition: They wanted us not to be able to import whatever we were able to buy or sell. You do not accomplish anything by buying wheat or soybeans in Argentina, or soybeans in Brazil, or any other food product, if you do not have the ships to transport it. We have developed our merchant fleet a lot, and we have increased by many times the number of ships we had before the Revolution, but the merchant fleet of the socialist countries also transported a lot of those goods to Cuba. Those fleets no longer exist. No one knows where those ships disappeared to.

So we have to hire ships on the world market, and so the measure is unfair. Forbidding those ships from entering the United States is meant to prevent us from hiring ships to bring the goods to Cuba. Really, one cannot conceive of a more brutal, crueler policy than this kind of policy being applied against our country at present. That is why I say that at the present time, the embargo is doing us much more damage. We used to count on those factors, and now we no longer have any of them, and the Torricelli Law is a kind of attempt to give the coup de grace to our country, to finish off our country [words indistinct].

That is why at the present time, and after 30 years, we consider what you have done so important. It is especially important because it arises from the American people themselves. That is decisive. It has arisen spontaneously, from the American people themselves, and that has special importance.

We have often seen that the U.S. Administrations are not the least bit concerned about what the rest of the world thinks. They are indifferent to what the rest of the world thinks. I remember during the Vietnam War, it was a precedent. World opinion was against that war, but the U.S. Administrations began to consider a solution to the Vietnam problem only when the American people themselves took a stand and an extremely powerful public opinion formed against the Vietnam War. So what happens within the United States itself carries particular, special weight, as regards certain problems.

Thus, we see in your actions an act fated to carry much weight, to be very important in the struggle against this injustice. But of course the rest of the world is also becoming aware of this. A large part of the world has become aware of this. They understand these things I am explaining, and solidarity is increasing all over. Now, the Torricelli Law is like the famous last straw that breaks the camel's back. [applause] It has sort of boomeranged, because it is already affecting directly not only Cuba but also all the countries that trade with Cuba, all the countries where there are U.S. subsidiaries. It affects the dignity and sovereignty of many countries, and even of many countries that are allies of the United States. These countries are not willing to accept that reduction in sovereignty that a U.S. law is seeking to impose on them. That is why they took action and protested.

How can all that be justified when it is being said that the Cold War is over? When nothing is threatening, or can threaten, U.S. security? Many of the world's governments realize that (?it is unfair). They speak of Cuba's isolation, but events show the opposite. Every time there was a public vote, how did people act, until now? People were very much afraid to raise their hands. Why? Because they were afraid of economic reprisals. At the United Nations, the representatives of the U.S. State

Department keep a tally of how many times a country votes with the U.S. delegation and how many times it votes differently from the U.S. delegation. There is a file for each country, and they tally things up every so often: Out of 100 votes, they voted the same way we did 80 times but voted differently 20 times, or 10 times, or five times, or two times.

That constitutes terrible pressure there at the United Nations, and when the voting is public, people are afraid. We ourselves are even reluctant to ask them to vote for something that would be good for us, so as not to put our friends in a difficult situation, a situation that could be detrimental to them. You cannot be asking friends to sacrifice themselves for you everyday. You cannot always be asking them to do something that causes them harm. When the voting is secret, however, we always get a great many votes, a majority of the votes. It is notable ... [applause] When we were elected to the Security Council, an overwhelming majority of countries voted for Cuba. When we were first elected to Ecosoc [United Nations Economic and Social Council], we got an overwhelming majority of the votes.

Now, recently, we were also elected to Ecosoc, one of the most important UN organizations, and a great majority of members voted for Cuba. They stayed until the end at the voting. Because there are many countries that have excellent relations with us, and these countries have seen that Cuba follows a policy based on principles always, and has tried to cooperate with many countries, and that, despite the embargo, to the extent that Cuba has been able to do so, when our trade and our economy were buttressed by the ecomomic relationship we had with the socialist bloc, we helped many countries.

We have sent doctors to dozens and dozens of countries, and we have sent teachers and technicians (?to help), for free, to dozens and dozens of countries. We have even shed our blood in the struggle to defend the independence of other countries, of the Angolans. [applause]

We have shed our blood struggling against apartheid, against apartheid's troops in Africa, and the African countries know this. That is why most of the votes for the resolution came from the African countries. But we have helped in a generous and disinterested manner for 30 years. We had more than 20,000 foreign students in Cuba on scholarship, and there are still many thousands of foreign students in Cuba on scholarship, despite the special period. We have not changed those programs. They have to some extent been reduced, because ... [rephrases] in keeping with our means, but we have a very large number of them. I cannot give you an exact figure right here and now, but there must be over 15,000 foreign students on scholarship in our country, students from the Third World.

We have helped train tens of thousands of technicians (?in those countries). Our medicine has helped save hundreds of thousands of lives in the Third World; and the people are aware of this. At the United Nations, we have always defended just causes. I could say that, really, no other country in the world has had as many foreign students on scholarship as Cuba has, per capita. When there were 80,000 scholarship students in the USSR, which had almost 300 million inhabitants, Cuba had 22,000. We have far more foreign students from Third World countries on scholarship per capita than the United States. It is for free. [words indistinct] for free, paid for by the Cuban state. Even now, in the middle of a special period, we are taking care of many people from the Third World. Many people from Latin America and other countries of the world today come here to receive health care services. Those who have money pay for such services. In such cases, our medical services, certain institutions, have been acquiring a lot of prestige. But there are many people who cannot pay for such services, and who ask us to provide the care.

The diseases are sometimes terrible ones: spinal problems, or disability problems. We have institutions, we have a center for nerve transplants and rehabilitation. That institution enjoys great prestige. It has many patients. We have other institutions that cure, for example, vitiligo. We have very good orthopedics institutions. We have an institution that can cure retinitis pigmentosa.

This very day, incidentally, as I was on my way over here, I had planned to say hello to a child who had written me, an Ecuadoran child. I think he is a champion chess player in Ecuador. He had written me a very nice letter, saying that he was getting ready to leave and that he wanted to see me so he could thank me. I was told he was leaving tomorrow, so I went by for a few minutes to see the child, who had been treated here at one of these institutions of ours. But at that same place, there was an Uruguayan woman and her daughter. They were blind due to retinitis pigmentosa. The woman had written, saying that she had no funds with which to cover the expenses of the operation. We told her to come anyway. By accident, I ran into her. They were staying at the place where the child was. They were at a kind of hostel, a house of... [pauses] a little hotel. The lady had recovered quite a bit of her sight. But the most interesting thing was the daughter, who was about 14 or 15 years old. Her vision was back to normal. She had been blind, and now her vision was back to normal.

Let us not forget about that miracle that Christ performed, the miracle of returning sight to the blind. Because I really must say, with satisfaction, that sight has been returned to many people in our country, as a result of that spirit of willingness to work hard and of solidarity that we have toward the Third World.

But right now, when I was told that you were coming, I suggested ... [pauses] I was told you were going to be taken to see the facilities for the Pan American Games, and I thought: If they are willing to travel a little bit farther, they can visit the center where we are providing care for the children from Chernobyl. We do not use this for propaganda, but we, alone, have taken care of many

more Chernobyl children than the entire rest of the world, than all the rest of the world put together. [applause]

Ten thousand Chernobyl children have stayed at that center. If we take a count of the number that have been received in the entire rest of the world, I doubt that the figure will be over 1,000, and I am certain it does not exceed 2,000. In many cases, what they received was not medical care. What they received were vacations at a camp, not the medical care, the rigorous examinations they undergo in Cuba, the care for any kind of illness they might have. Not all of the illnesses are serious, or extremly serious. Nevertheless, anything they might have is detected. We help them to get the radiation out of their systems. We have had really excellent results.

I wanted you to go there because, in view of the noble, generous gesture that you yourselves are making for us, we wanted you to see how we ourselves too, even in a special period, have not suspended our cooperation with the Chernobyl children.

It has already been some time since the USSR and the socialist bloc disappeared, yet we continue providing care for the Chernobyl children, despite the embargo and despite the special period that we are experiencing. We are doing this for reasons of ethics, for reasons of morality. It would have been easy to justify not continuing, easy to say: Do not send a single child more. Now, they often send them even when it is not a matter of radiation. Sometimes they have skin conditions, or leukemia that has nothing to do with the radiation. There is a hospital here that is at the service of those children of a nation that no longer exists. So we have shown solidarity not only with people from the Third World but also with other countries that had a certain degree of development, such as the Soviet Union.

But all this comes into play when a battle such as the one at the United Nations is waged. Because it was not only a matter of a just cause. It was not only a case of an embargo seeking to apply the laws of the United States outside U.S. territory. Rather, it was also that many of those countries acknowledge the solidarity given by Cuba, Cuba's actions, Cuba's efforts, in favor of the interests of those countries in all spheres. Not just in the sphere of cooperation with health care and many other such things, but also in defending the interests of the Third World countries in the sphere of economics, in defending ... [pauses] in the struggle for a new world economic order—this was approved by the United Nations more than 10 years ago but never implemented—and the declaration on the economic rights and duties of nations, which was a Mexican proposal applied ... [pauses] adopted at the United Nations, which was also never implemented.

But we have never for a single moment stopped struggling for all those things. We have always, invariably, avoided opportunism. We have never fallen into opportunist positions in our international policies. Many people at the United Nations acknowledge this. if that vote had been secret, we would have gotten far more than 100 votes. Because we knew of all the governments that wanted to vote in favor, but they could not challenge the power of the United States. That is why there was a high number of abstentions.

Abstaining, however, in spite of the memorandum sent around by the U.S. Government, abstaining was a rejection of the embargo. Leaving the session is as if you, right now, knew you were going to be asked a question, and that the question was a troublesome one, so many of you leave so that the question cannot be put to you, or so that you will not have to accept something you are being asked to do. Thus, by doing this, you would actually be expressing rejection. They were being asked to vote for the embargo, to vote against the Cuban resolution, or find themselves in trouble. So, leaving the room was also a way to reject the embargo. So we must count not only those who voted against [the United States] but also all those who abstained, and all those who absented themselves from the room.

Also, the 18 people who made speeches there in favor of the resolution were applauded. There was celebration at the United Nations when this resolution was approved. We ourselves thought we were going to get the approval at the United Nations. We thought that the number voting in favor would be higher, but that it would be a tight vote. We ourselves were surprised by the result of the voting, because we did not know what the results of the pressures were going to be. Also, it was not a secret vote. It was a public vote. Yet despite that, 59 countries voted in favor of the resolution. Only three, including the United States, voted against. What happened there at the United Nations was a truly spectacular thing, something that gives the lie to all the theories about Cuba's alleged isolation.

I think it was an excellent test, and I think that your battle, in my opinion, your battle, with this march and all, helped the elections ... [pauses] helped with the vote at the United Nations. It helped to make people aware. I am sure that it carried some weight.

There were different factors that helped. The Torricelli Law itself helped. It is said that Torricelli himself was asked for his opinion on the matter, and that he said it was a victory for the United States because many people had abstained. [chuckles] He did not say that there had been only three votes against the resolution. He said that there had been only 59 votes in favor. He did not take into account in any way those who abstained, or those who left the room. That is a way of proceeding. [chuckles] There are some people who prefer to leave so as to not be present, so as not to be in the position of having to say either yes or no. That is something they have invented there, at the United Nations, when they find themselves in those kinds of awkward situations. But, fortunately, these two things coincided: your march,

your breaking of the embargo, and the UN resolution. These two things came together, thereby increasing each other's impact.

The day before the vote, I had spoken to the workers at the CTC [Cuban Workers Federation], and I had said to them: There are going to be many abstentions. Although we were pretty confident that we were going to obtain a majority, I chose not to go out on a limb and assure it. To say that we were going to obtain a majority for sure would not have been a responsible thing to do. But I did say that there would be many abstentions, of course, because of this whole situation. That same day, I was talking about the march—what is it called?—the caravan of friendship, organized by the Pastors for Peace with the help of the other organizations. I was talking about that, and I was also talking about this (?vote) thing. It just so happened that, by the next day, the results were already known.

So these are two historic things, and I say this because I am convinced that your action, your caravan, your march, your breaking the embargo, and the UN resolution—all this creates better conditions in the world to promote solidarity. One of things I most admire about your actions was not the number of km you traveled, nor your physical effort, nor even your heroic crossing of the bridge—because I think that since Napoleon crossed the famous Bridge of (Arcola) and became famous, no one had ever carried out such a daring, courageous, and heroic act at a bridge as you did. [applause]

With much fewer troops, you took the Laredo bridge, carrying a wheelchair as a weapon, carrying a Bible as your primary weapon, a wheelchair, and medicine. It was really a beautiful battle. If I talk about historic battles, that was a historic battle. The most important thing is your moral value. At a time when there is a gigantic propaganda campaign, a univeral deluge of propaganda, lies, and distortion about Cuba's situation, about the principles, ideas, and conduct of the Cuban Revolution, you defied all that.

I say that it is easier to defy the might of the U.S. Government than to defy the deluge of lies and slanders and false campaigns that you have defied. In my opinion, that is what has more value and power, because the power of the U.S. Government is based not only on military force, not only on the number of sophisticated weapons, sophisticated planes, missiles of all kinds, and smart bombs, and all those things, but it is based a lot on propaganda.

I should say this, really, it is based on lies. Because whenever they are going to do something, they try to find a moral justification for it. If it is Vietnam, they have to find a moral justification to carry out a brutal war there and drop 2 or 3 million tons of bombs. But they have to find a moral justification for it. If they invade Grenada, they have to find a moral justification to invade Grenada, invent a story about students in danger there and all those things, which we knew was a huge lie. We knew more or less what was going on there (?because we had construction workers there) and we knew there was danger but not ... [pauses] I can assure you that the safest people there in all of Grenada were the students. But to save their lives and because of the danger, they had to send an airborne division and I don't know how many troops against a country so small it can hardly be found on a map. It is so small that it is hard to find it on a globe. It has 100,000 inhabitants, and they invaded it as if they were invading Mars or an extraterrestrial enemy.

They always try to find a moral justification. There are countries that unfortunately have helped, contributed to finding these moral justifications with their actions in some cases. I do not want to mention their names. But to embargo Cuba, harass Cuba, try to destroy the revolution and everything it means, they must find a moral justification. They have been fabricating one for 30 years. You have defied more than 30 years of lies, and this is in my opinion what is most valuable, most courageous, about your defiance.

In addition, you have been intelligent. We must say that you have not only acted with profound moral conviction, profound faith, and absolute conviction that what you were doing was honest and right, but you also knew how to do it in a very intelligent way. I must say this, when we witnessed this battle, it was not all seen on television, like the war against Iraq. The war against Iraq was announced beforehand. In addition, it was a previously announced war about which we said in United Nations: Let us find a way for peace. Why announce a war with a deadline? That was a war with a deadline, that everyone followed along on television like in a stadium.

Your battle was not seen on television, but it had more merit than that battle. (?You had fewer forces.) It had much more merit than the other war. [applause] Because when you have many very sophisticated weapons, and your adversaries make all kinds of mistakes, from political to military mistakes, it is easy to win a battle. But how did you win this battle? With moral force and intelligence. You showed that you were good strategists and good pastors. You organized the operation throughout the United States, in all the cities. You arrived at the same place simultaneously. You would almost need the Pentagon to organize an operation as precisely as you organized it, and you ended up simultaneously in Laredo, that whole caravan with 103 drivers and all the cargo.

In addition, you knew what you were doing. You knew how you had to do it. You knew that your "No!" was very powerful. You knew that that "No!" was more powerful than a nuclear weapon, because it was a moral weapon of many kilotons, 100 kilotons or 1,000 kilotons, or several megatons. But the fact is that you knew how you had to act. As The Reverend (Walker) explained, to accept the license was to accept the embargo. It was to accept the embargo. [repeats] It was to ask permission.

You also understood that for the U.S. authorities it was very difficult, in fact, to oppose your crossing (?in Laredo). I even know that this matter reached such international prominence that the European countries recommended that the U.S. Government let the caravan pass. They recommended that the caravan be let past. [applause]

They were more intelligent, and they realized the consequences of stopping the caravan or using repression against the caravan, or sending you to jail and putting you on trial for wanting to bring medicine, wheelchairs, bicycles, and Bibles to Cuba. You put the authorities ... [pauses] You so unmasked the authorities that you made it impossible for them to apply those classic measures of repression. You defied that, because you were willing to be arrested, put on trial, have those measures taken. That is what your heroism consisted of, but you knew how to apply your heroism. Your courage was accompanied by great intelligence and great psychology. Because what you did when they forbade the trucks from crossing the bridge with a few items was really excellent. You must be congratulated not only for your courage but also for your intelligence.

I would say that your battle was won in advance. Your battle was already won from the time it was thought up. But there is an enormous symbolism here. I told the workers a few days ago that the importance is not in the volume of things. For me, each ton is worth 1 million tons. I appreciate each ton as much as or more than 1 million tons, because of its moral value, because it is a symbol. We know how to appreciate this. Our people know how to appreciate this.

In addition, it is very good for us, because we have always been preaching that we have nothing against the American people. On the contrary; we have always spoken very well of the American people. We have never blamed the American people for the embargo. We have always blamed the government, always. We have always tried to educate our people with feelings of friendship towards the American people. Do you know in what country in the world an American is best treated? Do you know what country that is? It is Cuba. It is Cuba. [repeats] [applause]

This shows our people's feelings, and the policy of principles followed by the revolution, which has educated the people with a high political awareness, a clear idea of who is responsible for what, a feeling of friendship towards the American people. So in 30 years of revolution, I do not think an American exists who can say: They treated me badly in Cuba. They treated me disrespectfully. They treated me with contempt.

There are many places in the world where American citizens are treated badly. We cannot agree with that. (?They) blame the American citizens for things they are not responsible for. But of course, this is a kind of escape valve. They cannot do anything, so they take it out on an American individual. But we, who have fought against all the might [of the United States], our minds are calm, our souls are at peace, and we have no reason to take revenge on an American citizen for the wrongs we have suffered because of the might of the U.S. Government. That is how it is.

Now, this helps us in educating our people, because when our people see that a group like you do what you have done, our people's feelings of sympathy and recognition grow. The seed of friendship that we have planted germinates, grows, and bears fruit. This action helps us a lot, and it helps us to establish in the hearts of our people this differentiation between people and government. Words are useful, reasoning is useful, but actions are even more useful. We are always trying to educate the people in the realities of the United States. That is really why we are so appreciative and grateful. I wanted so much to be able to say this to you personally with arguments and reasons, without exaggeration or flattery or false words, but really say how we see it, how I see it, how the people see it, how everyone sees it here in our country.

We hope that now in the new conditions, with greater knowledge of our reality, you can continue to help us break the embargo. Everyone may come to an agreement unanimously that the embargo should disappear, but as long as an important part of the American people does not decisively support the disappearance of the embargo, the embargo will not disappear. So international solidarity has to be complemented by American solidarity. I am thinking this, because it would be a subject that all Americans will [words indistinct]. But there must be many million people in the United States like you. If you succeed in mobilizing them, it will be the surest guarantee that sooner or later the embargo will disappear.

Of course, the disappearance of the embargo has become a vital issue for our country, the revolution, and the revolution's accomplishments. What is important is not the revolution. The important thing is the revolution's accomplishments. The revolution has accomplishments to present to the world. We have been talking about this here tonight. That is why I see your movement as a decisive factor. I really think that it is the foundation, the most solid pillar, on which relations between the Cuban people and the American people, and between the peoples of the Third World and the American people, can be based.

I do not think Cuba is the only case. The world and the Third World need solidarity. I say that the Third World is experiencing an enormous tragedy, an enormous tragedy. I do not want to run on at length about the situation the rest of Latin America is suffering, that Africa is suffering, that many countries in Asia are suffering. A large part of the world is suffering a situation of poverty and misery. Many people are living in anguish. The Third World needs the solidarity of the American people. Peace needs the struggle by the American people.

We cannot say that the American people... [pauses] This is not to say that the United States is powerful. Those who say the United States is powerful are thinking about nuclear weapons, missiles, F-15 and F-16 planes, tanks, submarines, and all those things, and the divisions. We must be able to say one day to the world: The United States is powerful because it has a powerful people, and a just people. [applause]

(?I am telling you) this not in Cuba's name. Cuba is small. Our cause is just. But we are a small part of the world. If what happens to us has any importance, it is because it can happen to any other country. Just now the news agencies have reported, this afternoon the radio reported, that in El Salvador the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] has announced the possibility of a coup d'etat. As you know, the UN commission investigated and drew up a list of more than 100 high-ranking officers who are responsible for war crimes. Those officers must be removed. Now the FMLN members are turning in their weapons. Well, their demands have not yet been met. If there is a coup d'etat tomorrow, what will happen? They will have no weapons, and (?what will) the high-ranking military officers (?do)? Because that famous division ... [rephrases] What is that division they sent to Grenada called? The 182d or the 82d Division? They are not going to send the 82d Division to El Salvador, because they would already have sent the 82d Division against the revolutionaries in El Salvador, but not against those who committed genocide there.

We do not want them to send divisions anywhere. We want them to let each nation solve its own problems, let each nation fight, and respect the sovereignty and independence of every country, because without the support of the weapons they received from the U.S. Government, they would never have been able to commit so many massacres, so many crimes. That is the truth. When we talk about what is happening to Cuba, we are talking about what could happen to any country in the world, especially any Third World country.

That is why the battle you are waging for Cuba today is a battle you are waging for the entire world. You are waging it for the Third World. You are waging it for all the nations that have been under embargo for centuries, because they were turned into colonies. They were exploited. Their children were enslaved. The Reverend (Walker) said his grandparents had been slaves. How can we forget that? They invaded countries, hunted down people, and enslaved them. In this hemisphere, of a population of about 80 million natives who were there, the colonizers and conquistadors annihilated almost 60 million. You also know what happened in the United States with the remains of the native population of the United States. You know about this. You know this perfectly well.

So the world has been suffering an embargo for 500 years. What is neocolonialism but an embargo? What are those neoconservative and ultrareactionary policies but an embargo which demands that the governments close the hospitals and schools, throw people out on the street, leave people homeless? Even in the special period, when our imports have been reduced to 25 percent of what they were, our country has not closed a single school, a single childcare center, a single hospital. No one has been left homeless. When there are no jobs, we give them wages. We at least give them wages. Even if they stay at home, we do not leave them without wages. We distribute what we have in the most equitable way possible. But not a single citizen is left homeless.

How could we have done that without socialism, with capitalist mechanisms? How could we have kept the schools open? Reverend, I am not trying to indoctrinate you in socialism. If you want, I will not say socialism. I will not say socialism. Without the revolution, without the revolution's measures, how could we have kept our schools open? We would not be able to do what we are doing now, the miracle of what we are doing now, with 25 percent of the imports the country used to receive, in a capitalist society. That is why very rich countries, countries that have not been under an embargo, Latin American countries that have help from the World Bank and everything, that have a high level of exports, a lot higher than ours, have closed thousands of schools, hospitals, and social institutions. Well, that is what is happening in the world.

That is why I insist on the idea that fighting for the cause that is Cuba today is to fight for something a lot greater than Cuba. It is to fight for the cause (?of the world). I am sure that the obstacles you are overcoming can rightly be compared to the Red Sea that Moses crossed. The Reverend spoke about Moses. I think that is an excellent example of how the embargo was broken, how the sea was crossed, as the Bible tells us.

Well, I say that your battle, the sea that you have to cross, is much wider. The embargo is a lot broader, and that is why my respect for Americans has grown, my respect for all those who participated in this effort, and for the American believers and pastors [words indistinct] inspired by this example. You are also writing a page in the Bible. I am not going to say you are writing a page in history. The Bible is still not finished being written. You are writing the Bible of today, the history of the modern Bible. What you are doing is really (?that). [applause] Thank you very much. A thousand thanks. [applause]

## Castro Speech to 1 May Contingent

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[Speech by Cuban President Fidel Castro at a banner-awarding ceremony for the 1 May Contingent at the Lazaro Pena Theater in Havana on 23 November—recorded]

[Text] [Castro] Comrades: We have just presented the banner to the 1 May Contingent in honor of the 15 sugar harvests it has participated in since its creation. Some

brigades are older, from before 1978. But here we are really honoring the contingent that was created at that time. [Alfredo] Morales [Cartaya] has spoken to us about the production records of this contingent, and they are truly admirable. He told us that in these 15 years, they have cut 1.708 billion arrobas of sugarcane in Havana Province. I do not know if you have thought about what 1.708 billion arrobas signifies. More than 2 million tons of sugar can be produced from the sugarcane cut by this contingent in these 15 years.

It is truly an impressive figure. The figures of the cane cutters who have cut 100,000 [arrobas] or who cut 100,000 [arrobas], or the number of times they cut 100,000 [arrobas] are impressive. I do not know if they are the same cane cutters or if this is all the harvests added together, but I think the men of the contingent have cut more than 100,000 arrobas of sugarcane 3,527 times. I think that more than 200 men have cut or averaged....[pauses] No, more than 200. The 200, Cartaya, who were they? Morales?

[Morales] [Words indistinct]

[Castro] Two hundred twelve, right? Three thousand five hundred twenty seven cut 100,000 [arrobas].

[Morales] Three thousand five hundred twenty seven cut 100,000 [arrobas].

[Castro] Right.

[Morales] Two hundred twelve cut 200,000 [arrobas].

[Castro] That is 200,000 arrobas. There was another figure, 274. What did this refer to? Let us see....

[Morales, interrupting] These are those who have cut 1 million [arrobas].

[Castro] Ah, 274 have cut 1 million [arrobas]. [applause] This means that 274 men have cut cane to obtain approximately 350,000 tons of sugar. Seriously, when one thinks of the sweat and effort, the sacrifice which has been necessary to cut this amount of sugarcane, it is an extraordinary list of records. We could call the 1 May Contingent Olympic champions in cutting sugarcane, gold medal winners. [applause] That is why, in presenting this banner to the contingent and each of the brigade chiefs, we make them a symbol of what this movement of volunteers has signified throughout the years.

I think there is another figure. The cane cutters of the millionaire movement, or of the Cuban Workers Federation [CTC] movement, had cut 20 billion arrobas in the past 20 years. This equals almost three harvests of mobilized CTC members and volunteer workers in general, along with the farmers. That is, the millionaire movement, including the Youth Labor Army [EJT], has cut 35 billion arrobas, which equals almost five harvests of more than 8 million tons of sugar. Suffice it to say, for example, that the members of the 1 May Contingent have cut in 15 years—because there are two figures here, that of the millionaire movement over 20 years, and that of the 1 May Contingent, which was created 15 years ago as a separate contingent—enough sugarcane to equal more than three harvests in Havana Province.

I wanted to cite these examples to give you a much better idea of these numbers which have been mentioned here by Comrade Morales. This belongs to the history of the workers movement, to the beautiful history of the workers movement during these years of the Revolution, to the extraordinary participation of the workers. This history is not completely known. It has been written anonymously sometimes, as [Pedro] Ross [Leal] said, but it expresses what our Revolution is, its social content, its proletarian content.

Cutting sugarcane is one of the hardest tasks. Proof of this is that there are countries where sugar production disappeared because the cane cutters disappeared and there were not machines to replace them. In Puerto Rico, sugar production has practically disappeared. There was a time when they produced and exported 1 million tons. Today, I do not know if they produce enough to supply themselves. In Santo Domingo, [Dominican Republic] they have a very large work force of immigrants, who are the ones who cut the cane. Cane cutting has not really been mechanized in either of these places.

But even in Cuba, with the Revolution, it would have been difficult to continue harvesting cane with 350,000 cane cutters, because an unlimited number of new opportunities arose for our workers, and naturally the number of men who stood in line in the cane fields began to disappear. Those who stood in line, in the initial years of the Revolution, by the third or fourth harvest they had disappeared. Not all of them, but there were no longer any lines. Each year there were fewer cutters. They were primarily replaced by volunteer workers.

There were no professional cane cutters any longer. The harvest was becoming mechanized. In recent years, some 50,000 or 60,000 manual cane cutters worked, no more than that, of the 350,000 cane cutters who worked in 1970. It would not have been possible; it would have been very costly, very complicated for our economy to maintain the sugar harvest based on 350,000 cane cutters.

Even in the special period, the strategy we have employed has been to try to obtain fuel for the combines in any way possible. The cost of the camps, mobilizations, food, clothing, shoes, and other expenses for 350,000 manual cane cutters would have been more costly for our economy. That is why we must manage to obtain the 50,000 or 60,000, approximately 60,000 tons of diesel for the combines to work in the harvest. Coincidentally, [Juan Ramon] Herrera [Machado] includes the cost of trucks that transport the cane, only the [word indistinct]. In any case, the cane must be transported, but the combines are what replace the cane cutters and loaders. The combines traditionally consumed approximately 60,000 tons of fuel. Now, I think, they consume a little less. But this strategy was followed.

Nevertheless, it was always necessary to employ a force of volunteer workers, volunteer cane cutters, in addition to the professional workers and farmers, because there are areas that cannot be mechanized. In the first place, because not everywhere could be mechanized right away, but rather over the course of years. In the second place, because there are areas that are hilly, which cannot be mechanized. They are very hilly, or rocky, where we had to maintain a force of volunteer cane cutters. In this regard, the CTC has played a very important role.

This, which is part of history, has become a very special need this year, because we are in the special period. [member of audience shouts indistinct comments] [applause] I cut some sugarcane in my time too [laughter] but of course, I could never compete with Braulio [not further identified] or with the people. Just one time, I got it in my head to cut 1,000 arrobas. We were mobilized for a week, more or less, a number of days during that historic harvest, and I got it in my head to cut 1,000 arrobas. The sugarcane was good. It was the 4372 variety; unfortunately, we no longer have this kind of sugarcane. It was over there in Camaguey in Vertientes.

I used to work four hours in the morning and four in the afternoon. It was not like those of you who cut 100,000 arrobas, but we worked four hours without stopping. It was a habit. I liked to do the same thing I used to do in the mountains. When we had to make a march, I did not sit down along the way even once, because if you sit down you have to get up again and again, and every few minutes one wants to sit down. When you are cutting cane you cannot take the liberty of stopping. I cut four consecutive hours, and then another four hours in the afternoon, and with good cane, I averaged 400, 400 and a little, [arrobas] more or less. I do not want to exaggerate, sometimes it was a little more. Sometime it was a little more. [repeats]

As you know, during the first few days, even with gloves and everything, you get blisters and all that, a cane cutter's bones and everything hurt, and only after several days have passed is one really in training, as the athletes would say, ready for the test, right? That was the last day. I worked until 2300. The truth is that day I was part of the 1 May Contingent [laughter], and I cut 1,000 arrobas. [applause] I try to imagine all the people who cut 1,000 arrobas every day. I have an idea of the effort that means.

Well, we were talking....[pauses] Braulio, do you remember when those nice words by the comrade were suggested? No? [indistinct comments from audience] Yes, in fact, it was when I said we are in a special period that he asked for the floor. I was saying that now we are in a special period, and it needs an effort, I would say a special effort, an effort like the one you are making, because the contingent has made a special effort every year. A more efficient, more organized, more timely effort is needed in this harvest, since we do not have a lot of sugarcane, or we could say, we have less sugarcane.

We performed a heroic feat in the last harvest, in the special period, of producing 7 million tons of sugar. It was truly a heroic feat, and I know that many people in the world admired the fact that even in a special period, our country could produce 7 million tons of sugar, and that we produced it with 30 percent of the resources with which we had historically done the sugar harvest. Even though we were already being affected by a series of problems, and limited resources, there was enough sugarcane to produce 7 million [tons]. If we had been able to produce a little more, if the harvest had been done perfectly, if the harvest had not been greatly delayed, if the harvest had not extended into June....[pauses] Because when the harvest extends into June, it is equivalent to cutting hundreds of millions of arrobas with a yield of 6 percent or less in June.

We could have had yields of 11, 11.5, and in some cases 12 or more, percent of sugar in March. Sugarcane that is cut in June produces half of the sugar. In the past harvest, a lot of sugarcane was cut in June. Sugarcane that is cut in the second half of May—and this year a lot of sugarcane was cut in the second half of May, when the rains had already begun—is sugarcane that produces a lot less sugar. I calculate that a perfect harvest with the same amount of cane would have been able to produce approximately 7.3 million tons of sugar. Those 300,000 tons of sugar would have been very good for us, because the supplies needed by the harvest, as small as they might be in this period, are essential, and they cost tens of millions of dollars.

Three hundred thousand tons of sugar could have been worth about $60 million, and you can imagine what can be bought for $60 million, in supplies for the harvest and steel for the sugar mills, a little herbicide, a little fertilizer. We produced 7 million [tons] under these conditions, but this year, as I have said, we have less cane. Naturally, we have allocated fewer supplies for agriculture this year. That is, for some time the cold season cane has not been fertilized. That is the most productive cane. The cold season cane from the previous planting, the 1991 cold season, did not receive any fertilizer in 1992. The spring cane planting has not been fertilized at all in 1992. Of the cane shoots, approximately half of them have been fertilized. The other half has not been fertilized at all.

Why are the cane shoots given priority? Because the greatest increase in production when fertilizer is used is seen in the cane shoots. The cold season cane—because of its age, because it is a new planting, because of its density, because of the biochemical phenomena which take place in the soil—the cold season cane produces more than even the spring cane. But if fertilizer is added, production increases by several thousand arrobas. But it does not increase by as many arrobas as the production per caballeria increases for the cane shoots. The cane shoots are already weaker and the land is more depleted as successive harvests are done, and it needs fertilizer more. The cane shoots need fertilizer more than newly planted cane. That is why the cane shoots have been

prioritized, to give them what little fertilizer we have, but it was not a complete fertilization. It was mainly ammonia. The thing is that we need the potassium and phosphorous we have mainly for the direct production of food.

Potatoes, plantains, and other crops must be fertilized. Nitrogen is being used almost exclusively on rice crops. We do not have enough potassium and phosphorous for all the rice. Of course, the sugarcane has received only a little complete fertilizer. Next year, we plan to give a little nitrogen to all the cane shoots. We are studying how to do this. We already have the so-called ammonia bases. They work with ammonia, and it is injected directly in the soil by using some equipment. This year we could distribute ammonia on approximately 20,000 caballerias. Next year, we plan to apply ammonia directly into the soil on more than 30,000 caballerias. The plan was a little more extensive, but it will depend on the supplies we are waiting for, the materials and tanks for the ammonia bases. All this has to arrive on time. In any case, I think we can increase the nitrogenated fertilizers with ammonia to at least 30,000 caballerias.

We are also planning to have ammonia to produce ammonium nitrate in our factories in Nuevitas and Cienfuegos, because this is cheaper. If you buy a ton of urea, you have to pay about $160 per ton. There is the price, plus the shipping. If you buy ammonia, it is about $105 or $110 per ton. Now, for one caballeria of cane you need at least two [tons] of urea. That makes more than $300 per caballeria. With ammonia, one ton of ammonia is enough for one caballeria. So it is $110 as against $320. That is why it is so much cheaper to use ammonia. We had already started that process, but it depends on the bases of ammonia you have. Each base makes it possible to fertilize about 1,500 caballerias with ammonia.

But our plants can produce ammonium nitrate, and this is also cheaper. It is not as cheap as applying the ammonia directly, but with one ton of ammonia you can produce a little more than two tons of ammonium nitrate. With one ton of ammonia, processed in our factories—with some expense that must be made in our factories—we can fertilize one caballeria of cane with two tons, not in the best way, but a pretty good way, with nitrogen. These are plans we intend to put into practice in 1993 so that all the cane shoots, at least, will receive a certain amount of ammonia.

Right now we cannot plan to give them the right amounts of phosphorus and potassium. We must work based on the phosphorus and potassium that is in the soil, and also use the wastes, all the ashes, from the sugar mills. These ashes contain potassium. We have to take them to the fields. We must use all the organic fertilizer possible. But of course, with ashes and organic fertilizer we can fertilize a few thousand caballerias, but not 100,000 caballerias. It would be nice if we could solve the whole problem with ashes, but there are not enough ashes to fertilize 100,000 arrobas [as heard] of cane with potassium. There is not enough organic fertilizer to fertilize 100,00 arrobas [as heard] of cane, the cane shoots, or almost 100,000 arrobas....[pauses] caballerias of cane.

There are not enough ashes. There are enough for a few thousand, but not even 10,000 [caballerias]. That is why the only alternative....[pauses] The main element, the most important one, which is nitrogen, must be applied to the new shoots in some other way. We cannot yet think about fertilizing, we do not have the resources for fertilizing, the cold season and spring season cane; that is, the planting. Of course, the situation will be better in 1993. There were also reductions in cane planting in 1991, especially in the cold season. This year there has been an increase in the cold season planting. How much will we have by the end of the year, Herrera? [response indistinct] We had 8,000 and what? Almost 9,000 [caballerias]. You plan to plant a little with irrigation now. You had areas with irrigation reserved. [response indistinct] Well, last year how much cold season planting did you do? You did 6,800. With cold season and spring season planting, how much will we have this year? We will have 20,000. Will we reach that? If we do not plant (?11,000) at least 19,000. How much is spring season planting? It is 8,900. How much new cane was planted last year in total? [Herrera: 16,200.] That is at least 3,000 caballerias more of new cane in spite of having less resources.

In 1992, we have had much more problems with fuel than in 1991. So all this is affecting the cane, the planting that we were able to do before. Another element is the fertilizers, the planting, the fuel for preparing the soil. To save fuel we are using the multiple plows. We have made a large number of multiple plows to save fuel in preparing the soil. The multiple plow is a new piece of equipment thought up by Cuban engineers. [Words indistinct] is not here? Comrade (?Bosch). They forgot to invite him, in spite of everything they have to thank Engineer (?Bosch) for. [applause] He invented the multiple plow, and it can save 30 or 40 percent of the fuel in preparing the soil. This year we have worked with the multiple plow in preparing the soil for cane and the miscellaneous crops enterprises, for tubers, vegetables, etc.

Fuel also has affected irrigation. It has been necessary to sacrifice irrigation in many cane areas when we had the machinery for the irrigation equipment but we did not have enough fuel over the course of this year to use the irrigation. This has also had an effect. I am talking about objective factors. The lack of herbicides has had an effect. We have had very little herbicide since it is a very expensive product. When we have had to choose between herbicide for the cane or powdered milk for the children, we have had to allocate those resources for the powdered milk, for food. Keep in mind that many things compete here for every dollar, or every bit of hard currency.

There has been little herbicide, and there are some kinds of weeds that require—especially where the lianas grow—they require certain kinds of herbicides because otherwise there is a problem. It is very difficult to

eliminate them with a hoe. However much you hoe, there are some kinds of these grasses, especially the lianas, these weeds, which cannot be taken care of with only a hoe. This also has an effect on the sugar harvest, because it is more difficult the cane without lianas than with lianas. [sentence as heard]

There are other factors added to this. There is the issue of the burning. This is an important element. Why is it necessary to reduce the burning? We are reducing it to a minimum. But, well, there has been a higher percentage of heavy weed growth. If we add that there were not enough mobilizations to do all the weeding it would have been necessary to do in June, July, and August, among other reasons because the sugar harvest had been extended....[pauses] If the sugar harvest is extended until June, you are using almost all the work force and almost all the resources on the sugar harvest to produce less sugar in those months. Therefore, there is a lack of all the work force needed to plant and weed and replant in those critical months. That is the reason for the enormous importance of finishing the sugar harvest on time. It is very important. It is decisive.

All these factors have had an effect on the availability of cane this year. We have less cane. We cannot even think of getting a harvest of 7 million tons. But we must use the available cane in the best way. That is our problem for 1993. Because sugar is our primary product. We buy fuel with sugar. A large part of the sugar is used to buy the fuel the country needs to function [words indistinct]. Do not forget that we are in a country where more than 90 percent of the population now has electricity. When the Revolution triumphed it was less, almost half, not half but a little more than half of what we have today. Only 50 percent of the population had electricity, if that. They used less electricity. Families had fewer household appliances. Now we have almost twice the population, and 90 percent of the population has electricity.

The rate of exchange of sugar for oil is unfortunately not that of 1959. If we were in 1959, with 1 million tons of sugar we could get all the oil we need today, besides domestic production. But we are not in 1959 or 1960 when the U.S. embargo began. We are in 1992, heading for 1993, and we must use almost all the sugar to buy fuel to keep the country functioning. Another part is used to buy food. Another part has to be used to buy inputs. We are referring to our most important product, sugar. We get income from nickel. Nickel prices have also dropped. We get income from fish exports, primarily lobster and shrimp. We get income from tourism. That is what is growing the most. Tourism is growing rapidly, but it is very far from being enough. Years will have to pass before income from tourism begins to compete with income from sugarcane. This needs time. We have other important programs under development which should increase the country's income, but time is needed.

Today, as a result of the wars and the cartels that have been formed among the oil producers, today with one ton of sugar, as has been said on other occasions, only 1.4 tons of oil can be bought. In 1959 or 1960, I repeat, it was around eight tons. In trade with the Soviet Union, we maintained a more or less similar price ratio. We bought about seven tons of oil for one ton of sugar, in all the agreements with the Soviet Union before the boom in oil prices. That is perhaps one of the most difficult problems we have today: the price ratio between sugar and oil.

But it is decisive. Each ton of sugar exported should produce between $180 million and $200 million-....[pauses] Every million tons, every million tons of sugar, between $180 milllion and $200 million; 500,000 tons less are 100 million less. One million tons less of sugar are $200 million less for the economy. Because in spite of all the things that have happened, we have managed to find a market for our sugar in addition to domestic consumption, which is relatively high. Domestic consumption is probably not less than 700,000 tons. But in addition there are unfulfilled commitments. Sometimes the deliveries are delayed, and they must be delivered later.

It does not mean that every ton of sugar is certain income. There are outstanding obligations to be fulfilled. Because to meet our commitments to the Soviet Union in recent years, for several years, before the Soviet Union disappeared, we sometimes had to take out sugar loans to meet our commitments to the Soviet Union. These loans require certain amounts of sugar to meet those obligations. So this is even a little more complicated, but I am giving you the figures that will allow you to make a calculation, and so that our sugar workers will understand the importance of optimizing the amount of cane available.

That is why we must do an efficient, almost perfect sugar harvest, as perfect as possible, so that the cutting will begin in accordance with the cane estimates at the exact right time at each sugar complex. We must try to finish the harvest in April, by the end of April. You cannot imagine how many things must be done for this, because of the issue of the repairs to the sugar mills and the combines, tractors, and trucks, without spare parts, since many of these trucks and this equipment are from the socialist bloc, and we have not received parts from there for a while.

You can imagine the country's effort to keep the cane combines in operation, to keep the tractors in operation, the trucks in operation. It is not just a matter of fuel. There is the issue of the spare parts. Our cane cannot be carried on people's backs. We cannot get millions of tons of sugar by cutting it by hand today, and carrying it on people's backs. It must be transported. We cannot even transport it in carts, since the collection centers, the entire system for receiving it, is designed for working with trucks and wagons, and is a certain distance away. We do not have those old lifts, of which we had thousands. They were relatively near the cane fields, when nothing was mechanized, and when the cane was carted by oxen. We cannot use them as replacements, because

those lifts no longer exist. Today, we have the collection centers. There are about 1,000 in the whole country.

It is impossible to do without the trucks. It is impossible to do without the tractors. Many of those trucks from the socialist bloc (?are without parts). For the trucks, in addition to fuel and parts, we must get batteries and tires. We do not manufacture all the tires in this country, and when we manufacture them we have to get the raw materials to make the tires. We cannot manufacture all the batteries in this country. When we manufacture batteries, we have to get the raw materials. You cannot imagine the number of problems that must be solved so that the sugar mills can operate. You must live day to day with these problems to have an idea and see, within the shortage of resources, how everything will be solved.

The workers, the innovators and efficiency experts, have been doing true miracles. We must always get a few parts from somewhere, if they can be gotten, or from somewhere else, the ones it is impossible to manufacture here. We must always buy a few tires, some inputs, some steel. The sugar mills need steel for their repairs, to make the parts, even if we make all the parts, and we make the vast majority of parts here for the sugar mills. Nickel and other kinds of production also need steel. The tractors that work in other kinds of agriculture—rice, tubers, and vegetables—also need parts. The transportation equipment also needs parts. They also need fuel.

This may give you an idea of the effort the country is making to meet all these needs with such scarce resources. I am explaining this now that the sugar harvest is about to begin in some mills, and here on the occasion of these banners that are being given to you, so that the sugar workers, the workers at the agroindustrial complexes and the agricultural complexes also, the manual cane cutters, and the entire country, will know the importance of the effort we must make in the sugar harvest, in all the aspects of the sugar harvest.

I should add the following. The productivity of the cane cutters is not so high when the cane gives less yield. I was talking about my personal experience with good cane with more than 100,000 arrobas, but if the cane has 60,000, 50,000, or 40,000 and some arrobas, the yield of the cane cutters also goes down. The yield of the machinery also goes down. So cane with less yield per caballeria translates into less yield per cane cutter. Now, cane that is not burned also translates into less yield per cane cutter. We have been fighting for years against burning the cane.

Of course, in some provinces like Matanzas and Havana, they used to burn almost all the cane. There was not a lot of work force and the yield was higher, necessarily. It was hard work, of course, because of the dust and ashes and everything, right? Because of the soot the burned cane leaves behind. It is very hard work, but the yield is higher. Nevertheless, burning the cane damages the fields. Burning the cane can help when there are lianas, but along with the....[pauses] When you burn the cane, tons and tons of organic material are also burned along with the cane leaves.

Burning the cane has two problems. We resorted to it when we did not have enough machinery or cane cutters, trying to get productivity through this burning. But it is not the correct agronomical technique, because it destroys organic material and promotes weed growth. When you cover the canefields with cane straw, and the spaces between the rows are covered, fewer weeds grow. This uses the organic material and recycles the nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium.

It also conserves water if it is a dry year. It helps to conserve water. Cane straw has many benefits for the cane. I did not say, for example, that one of the factors also having an effect this year is that there has been less rain than in other years. There has been a real drought this year in some regions of the country, and this has also hindered the planting. In those areas in northern Las Tunas, Holguin, and Santiago de Cuba Provinces, the lack of rain in the spring has often hindered the planting. The drought has been so severe in some areas of the eastern provinces that we have had to improvise solutions to supply water to the city of Santiago de Cuba in the middle of spring, since in the middle of spring the reservoirs that usually supply the city of Santiago de Cuba with water were empty. It has rained very little in those areas where the sources of that supply are located. In some cane areas, it has rained very little.

In others, it has rained more. We can see that in October, which is always a rainy month, and in this case it could have helped the cane, it rained 60 percent of the historical average. There has not been a lot of rain in November. There has been a bit in the central region, in the western region, in certain areas. In recent days, there was a good rainstorm in the western region, in the central region, Santa Clara, Sancti Spiritus, but in the eastern provinces it has rained very little in November.

The rain is capricious. Sometimes when we wait for the rain to cultivate and plant, and for the cane to grow, it does not come. Instead, it comes in the middle of the harvest. Rain in the middle of the harvest causes damage, because it hinders the machinery, hinders transportation. Last year, this was one of the characteristics that delayed the harvest. The rainy days came during the dry season. It can be said that last year we had rain in the dry season and drought in the rainy season. There is no remedy for these misfortunes. We must adapt to what nature gives us. Irrigation was limited, as I said, because of the fuel.

I was explaining that when less cane is burned, the cane cutters' yield is lower. That is why it has been necessary to increase the number of those mobilized for this sugar harvest by at least 20,000 cane cutters in spite of the fact that there is less cane, to ensure stable deliveries to the sugar mills. This is the reason for this increase in the work force. In Havana, I believe the contingent had

about 1,200 people last year. This year it has 2,000. There has been an increase in the contingent of 800 more workers. Havana Province has less cane. But the harvest cycle is also shorter. In some mills, it is 80 days long, in others 100 days, 105, or 110.

This is the situation we have in Havana Province, and we still need 800 more manual cane cutters. We must manage to harvest the cane at the optimum time. This is why we will have to make a tremendous effort, in the mills and fields as well as in transportation, the repair shops, everywhere, to achieve the feat of optimizing sugar production and to reduce the effects of the reductions in the amounts of cane and sugar available for export.

I have spoken at length so that our workers will know about how things are, the causes of this whole movement, and the importance of achieving an efficient sugar harvest, so that they do not see this as [just] a slogan, so that these goals will be based on a clear awareness with respect to all these problems.

But we do not have only the harvest at this harvest time. We also have the elections, and one of the things that I was thinking was that we have the elections of the delegates to the municipal assemblies on 20 December. We will have a second round, but the first round is on 20 December. I hope that many delegates will be elected in many districts then, but we must guarantee the voting by the cane cutters (?at the mills that are) milling on 20 May ... [pauses] December. They will necessarily have to be part of elections, participate in the elections.

But then we have the elections for deputies to the provincial assemblies and the National Assembly, or to be exact, for delegates to the provincial assemblies and deputies to the National Assembly. This will also be in the middle of the sugar harvest and when the sugar yields are highest, the months when the sugar yields are highest. It is impossible for our cane cutters and sugar industry workers not to participate. We have to see how to arrange this, whether to take the ballot boxes to the cane cutters, whether the ballot boxes will go to the cane cutters or the cane cutters will go to the ballot boxes. I do not know how the experts in this, the specialists, those on the electoral commission, will decide. We have to choose, because they must fulfill both obligations.

We cannot do without the participation in the elections of such a large sector of the workers. So we hold elections in the middle of the sugar harvest. In addition, and based on the standards agreed to in the most recent electoral law, the workers movement has a primary role in nominating the candidates for provincial delegations and deputies to the National Assembly, since the CTC presides over the other mass organizations, which with it make up the electoral commission. This is hard, difficult, complex work, since the quality of the candidates to the National Assembly depends on the quality of its work, within our concepts and process, which has no reason to envy any other process in the world, just as it is designed and is submitted to the people's verdict.

So the CTC and the workers movement also have these tasks. The party also has to guarantee, to expend energy in guaranteeing the application of all the standards and principles that have been agreed on for our electoral process. Everyone will be busy with this activity also. Both are important; we cannot let either one of them go. I am only recalling this so that we will not forget it. Ross has already mentioned here the tasks that the workers movement and the CTC have.

These are the complex, difficult, hard circumstances we must handle during this sugar harvest. We are confident that in spite of all these difficulties, we will achieve the goals we have set. If there is anything that is in surplus here in our country—and it is not in surplus, but is much needed—if there is anything that is in surplus among our workers, it is the fighting spirit, the spirit of struggle, the patriotic spirit, the will and determination to fight and struggle and move forward, the will and determination to save the revolution and socialism. No one wants this country to become a Yankee colony ever again, because the revolution saved our nation from that, because the struggle of several generations from 1868 to today saved it from that. Our country can never go back to being a Yankee colony. Our country can never go back to living without the revolution and socialism. [applause]

It would be the greatest of the disasters that have happened over the course of our history, the greatest setback over the course of our history. This process can [words indistinct] we can never permit (?this setback) because it would be irreversible. On these deep roots are based our convictions, our spirit of struggle to handle these extraordinary, incredible difficulties which have arisen for our country as a result of the disappearance of the socialist bloc and the disintegration of the USSR. This is an exceptionally difficult period of history for our country, but it can also serve to show the measure of our merits, virtues, and courage, our heroism. This is something that one does not do simply because one has a vocation for sacrifice, but rather out of historical need, the vital need to do this. It is yet to be proven what a people can do when it has the level of combativeness and awareness that our people have.

This does not mean that all citizens have this, but a majority of the people do. The revolution has never .... [applause] The revolutionary has never had the support of 100 percent of the citizens. It was impossible, absolutely impossible. But the revolution has always had the support of the majority of truly patriotic, aware, dignified citizens. The revolution, which began with very few people in 1868, and resumed in 1895, and was reborn throughout our history, especially after the coup d'etat of 10 March 1952, did not have the support of the vast majority of the population. Well, it had a lot of sympathy, but the majority of the population were not active supporters.

Today, we have the majority of the population as active supporters, experienced supporters, who have lived through a tremendous experience. When I talk about supporters, I am not talking about the party. I am talking about the revolutionary supporters, because there are many excellent citizens who for one reason or another are not party members.

But we have yet to see what a revolutionary and dignified people can do in difficult circumstances. No one would have believed that the revolution would be able to endure so long after the disintegration of the USSR and the disintegration of the socialist bloc. Now they are amazed by what our people can do, by what our people are capable of doing. They are amazed, and they have reasons enough to be amazed. Just as we have reasons enough to be proud of our people, and especially proud of our workers. [applause]

What you are doing is proof of this. When almost 50,000 volunteers are requested, they come forward throughout Cuba. Up to 98 percent of the volunteers requested are already organized. When you think about the tens of thousands of workers from Havana City alone who are working in different programs of diverse natures—from those who are working in self-sufficiency tasks to those who are working in agricultural or cattle programs around the city—there are thousands and thousands of workers mobilized in Havana Province's agricultural camps, or those who are mobilized digging tunnels, another important task that has not been abandoned in the least during the special period. It pains us to think about the energy that we have to invest in this—the fuel and resources—but it has to be done. It is an essential duty. It is a shield, protection for our population, an expression of our will to resist and fight on any terrain. Morales spoke about approximately 40,000 Havana residents. I think he was talking about Havana Province. Or was it Havana City and Havana Provinces? The capital. Nearly 40,000 Havana City residents have been mobilized in these activities. This is proof of the revolutionary spirit of our workers and our people.

That is why I said that we have yet to see what a people like this can do and can resist. The international forces of reaction, the international forces of reaction [repeats] are not as optimistic, not as euphoric as in the past when they saw nothing but blows and more blows against the revolutionary movement and socialism. Now different things are beginning to happen in many places. Things are beginning to change in many places. The philosophy of neoconservatism is losing prestige and strength in view of the failure it has brought everywhere, in Latin America and the world, in the United States itself.

Neoconservatism, ultraconservatism, has suffered a heavy blow because of the recent elections in that country. Naturally, this does not mean the disappearance of that social system—not at all—or the disappearance of imperialism as an existing, dominant, and hegemonic system in the world, in the case of Yankee imperialism. But, well, when we analyze those elections, what do we see? What sectors voted for the opposition in the United States? They were the lowest-income sectors of the people in the United States: the majority of the people over 60 years of age, retired people, all those who find themselves without medical assistance, who have problems of all kinds; the majority of the young people between 20 and 30 years of age who are affected by unemployment and a number of other problems; the majority of college graduates; the majority of the intellectual sectors; the vast majority of the black population of the United States; the vast majority of the Hispanic population, except the Miami exile community [gusanera] which primarily voted for the conservative government. Most women also voted for the opposition. Women are victims of discrimination and mistreatment. There are issues that are extremely important for U.S. women which were also being debated in this process.

In other words, the majority of the U.S. population did not vote for neoconservativism, did not vote for those shock policies that totally ignore and neglect issues related to jobs, social security, public health, and education. For 12 years, the Republican administrations totally ignored this. The opposition took upon itself these worries of the population, took upon itself these realities, and obtained the majority of the votes. In other words, even the U.S. people voted against the ultrareactionary policies of the current U.S. administration.

This does not mean that we should harbor any hopes because there are no grounds to think that there will be changes regarding Cuba. We should not harbor any hopes. But the true fact is that the most ultrareactionary ideas have suffered a heavy blow at the hands of the U.S. people. There are important reserves within the U.S. people. I believe that that is one of the lessons of these capitalist-style elections, where only 53 percent of the citizens entitled to vote did so—53 percent!—despite the fact that there were three candidates. It has been said that the third candidate mobilized a lot of people in these elections and made them a lot harder fought, yet only 53 percent of the people entitled to vote did so. We expect our elections to reach more than 53 percent. [applause]

But I believe that proof of the moral reserves of the U.S. people has just been given by these Pastors for Peace. [applause]

Among them there arose a determination to challenge the embargo, collect supplies, and bring them directly from the United States to Cuba via Mexico. This could not be done through the United States itself because no Cuban ship is allowed to dock in U.S. ports. After the promulgation of that criminal law, that unscrupulous law, which reminds us not only of the Platt Amendment, but also of Weyler's concentration plan during the Spanish attempt to starve the Cuban people to death, to bring them to the point of surrender through hunger, after that law, this attitude arose among a group of Americans who, furthermore, acted with impressive conviction, determination, and courage to challenge the

embargo. They were willing to do whatever might be necessary and in the end, they fulfilled their aim. They breached the embargo.

The value of this must be judged by its moral significance, not by the amount of products, although we appreciate those products as if they were millions of tons. We appreciate each ton as if it were a million tons—regardless of whether it was 12, or 14, or 15 million tons or just 15 tons. We appreciate what they were able to bring as if it were 10 or 15 million tons of products because of their moral significance, because of the effort, the sacrifices they made, going around collecting things all over the United States and loading trucks to take them to the border and then to a Mexican port to ship them to Cuba. This is a truly impressive thing, which in our eyes gives dignity to the American people. [applause] We should not let ourselves be confused by the deeds of their governments. We must remember that the American people have been the victims of lies, deception, demagogy, confusion, all kind of things, but that they have great reserves of morality.

These are new things that have been occurring since the collapse of the socialist bloc and the USSR. These are a sign of the new times that are coming and which sooner or later will arrive. Because the world cannot endure ultrareactionary policies. It cannot endure policies that are indifferent to the fate of thousands of millions of human beings. Capitalism and imperialism have been, among other things, destroying our planet's environment. Consumer societies are doing terrible damage to life and the natural conditions of the earth.

The planet has over 5 billion inhabitants. The earth's population has practically doubled since the triumph of the Cuban revolution. A large part of that population is suffering all kinds of hunger, poverty, [lack of] necessities, and shortages of all kinds as a consequence of the constant looting, past and present. The people are becoming more and more aware of these events, these realities. This also includes the citizens of developed capitalist countries. This is why we are seeing these types of symptoms. Solidarity with Cuba is growing everywhere, even at the government level. Although in many votes, these countries of the former socialist bloc now vote against us, most vote in favor of Cuba at the United Nations; for example, when the Economic and Social Council [ECOSOC] vote took place at the United Nations.

The ESOCOC is one of the most important organizations of the United Nations. More than 100 countries supported Cuba, from the beginning. They remained firm until the end when Cuba was elected, together with Mexico, as a member of ECOSOC. This shows that many countries in the world, especially many Third World countries, have confidence and faith in Cuba. This is shown when the voting is secret, but when the voting is public there are other problems. Now, before long, there will be another proposal that will have to face a public vote. It deals with the Yankee embargo, with the Torricelli Law. It is very well written, with great maturity, and with the goal of obtaining the broadest support. Of course, a secret vote—when representatives of countries vote secretly—is not the same as a public vote when they have to raise their hand, because afterwards come all the U.S. reprisals, with its power and influence in many fields.

Nevertheless, our people are waging the battle with this draft resolution. In other words, these are symptoms of the new times. What will happen in the end with this resolution on the embargo? No one knows. Naturally, there will be a group of countries, those more closely allied with the United States, that will vote against this draft resolution, even though this draft resolution is a question of principle, which makes it very difficult to vote against it.

It is an historic responsibility, but we know that there are people in this world who do not have any kind of scruples and cast any vote against any principle. It is possible that there might be many abstentions, which in the final analysis is an intermediate position to avoid making such a great commitment. But it is also possible that a number of countries will vote, together with Cuba, in favor of the resolution despite all the pressures. What is being debated is not something between Cuba and the United States. What is being debated is an international principle, a legal principle, a moral principle. It is not a matter of a conflict between Cuba and the United States. It is truly a matter of defending a principle at the United Nations. But who wages these battles in this world nowadays? In the past, the entire socialist bloc and many other countries waged these battles. Today, only Cuba wages these battles.

But, I have to say that solidarity with Cuba is growing and this is clear in many fields. We can never disappoint the hope that so many millions of people have placed in us. We have a very great responsibility, not only toward our own people, but toward all the people of the world, particularly in the Third World countries. By struggling, by working, by resisting, we are writing the most noble and glorious page in the history of our nation. It has fallen to this generation, the present generation, these people, the almost 11 million citizens who live in this country, to wage this struggle, this battle. If not everyone participates in this battle, those who are the essence of the nation, the soul of the nation, the patriotic and combative people, are participating in it. This is the best guarantee we have of victory.

Time is on our side. We need time. Let us make resistance provide the nation with the time it needs to move forward and come out victorious. Within this patriotic and combative people, you, the workers, the laborers, the volunteers who mobilize for any task, you, the members of the 1 May Contingent, are the vanguard. In the name of the nation, we congratulate you and thank you for what you have done and for what you are going to do. [applause]

Socialism or death, fatherland or death, we will win! [applause]

## Bahamas

### Prime Minister Ingraham Presents Budget

*FL2611003092 Bridgetown CANA in English 2323 GMT 25 Nov 92*

[By Athena Damianos]

[Text] Nassau, Bahamas, Nov 25, CANA—Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham on Wednesday [25 November] presented his first national budget, announcing no new tax measures. But Ingraham gave notice that the government must borrow 100 million dollars (U.S.) "as a matter of the most extreme urgency."

He also outlined concessions, including an increase in the exemption on imported goods by returning residents from 100 to 500 dollars, an increase in the old age pension, and the removal of customs duty on essential baby and child care products. Ingraham, who dealt in detail with what he called the financial chaos left behind by the last government, pegged the 1993 recurrent revenue at 309 million dollars.

The New Free National Movement government, he said, has set about reducing the recurrent expenditure "in order to move as closely as possible to the level of recurrent revenue of 309 million dollars." This would leave a budget deficit of 16 million dollars. Even on an annualised basis, the deficit is less than the deficits in each of the past five years, said Ingraham. The 1993 budget, he added, will produce a reduction of 14 million dollars in government debt.

An interim 12-month budget was presented to satisfy a constitutional requirement. The budget will, in fact, only apply for the first six months of the year. In July, a budget will be introduced for the fiscal year 1993/1994.

Tax concessions outlined by Ingraham are as follows:
—the old age pension will be increased from 120 to 160 dollars a month with effect from August 1, 1992;
—the removal of customs duty on essential baby or child-care items like bottles, baby furniture, diapers, and undergarments;
—reduction on export tax on locally manufactured spirits;
—the waiver of customs duty on musical equipment imported by foreign musicians recording at local studios;
—the Bahamas licence certificates requirement applicable to businesses with turnover equal and greater than 250,000 dollars has been raised to 500,000 dollars.
—the waiver of customs duties on equipment imported by approved agencies engaged in the research or treatment of AIDS and the HIV virus;
—duty free importation of necessary items imported by the handicapped, elderly, and chronically ill, and;
—the duty free importation of wines and lower stamp tax rates for spirits.

In addition to these measures, some tourist items have been included in the duty free regime while other tariff adjustments have been made to correct anomalies or to effect social and economic benefits for Bahamians.

Ingraham said that the fiscal "recklessness" of the previous government was such that between 1987 and 1991, it had to borrow 240 million dollars to cover its deficits. The Bahamian people are obligated to pay it back, he said.

The government intends to obtain 10 million dollars by immediately starting the process of divestment, said Ingraham. In addition to selling a hotel, the government intends to contract out the management of Bahama Hot Mix and franchise out the sand dredging operating in Nassau Harbour, on which it has a monopoly.

It also intends to lease out one of the Nassau Harbour tugs in order to start the process of government disengagement from non-essential services. It will sell one of its vessels, the Ranger, said Ingraham.

A multi-million dollar fish landing complex in Nassau, which has never operated for the purpose intended, will be sold, and the government will dispose of its houses at Casuarina Point in Abaco and Morgan's Bluff, Andros.

Ingraham said that the 1993 budget represents "a bold and decisive step in the direction of a return to fiscal rectitude."

## Dominican Republic

### * Jan-Aug Inflation Hits 2.77 Percent

*93CA0026D Santo Domingo EL SIGLO in Spanish 10 Oct 92 p 1-D*

[Article by Victor Manuel Tejada]

[Text] Like most of the other seven months of 1992, August was a month with minimal price variations, according to the Central Bank, since inflation increased by barely a half percentage point, to total 2.77 percent so far this year.

Inflation in August—0.56 percent—was the second highest so far in 1992. This level was exceeded only in June, when prices increased by 2.12 percent. Nevertheless, despite this, it is unlikely that inflation for all of 1992 will exceed 5.0 percent.

Data from the Banco Central indicate that at the end of August 1992 the Index of Consumer Prices (IPC) stood at 1994.82. This indicates that cumulative inflation during the past 12 months—since August 1991—was barely 6.69 percent, a level most countries in the world would envy.

Maintaining inflation low and the exchange rate stable apparently have turned into the two principal elements of the economic policy of the government, which have led it even to sacrifice, at certain moments, the possibility of sustained economic growth.

The CPI is a balanced average calculated on the basis of prices throughout the country of a group of goods and services generally consumed. During the first three months of 1992 that indicator declined continuously.

In January 1992, for example, inflation was negative at -0.31 percent. In February that indicator also was kept below zero at -0.68 percent, as well as in March, when it stood at -0.12 percent.

The low inflation recorded during the first eight months of 1992 does not mean that prices have settled at a good level but rather that the level of prices, which had exploded in the scandalous inflation of 1989 and 1990, has not varied much since 1991.

In view of the low inflation, the representatives of different business sector groups have raised the need for government authorities to take action so that economic activity will regain the dynamism noted during the first three months of 1992.

In this connection it has been proposed that greater liquidity be injected into the economy with the double objective of having a dynamic impact on the economy and of stimulating a reduction in interest rates.

According to published figures, government authorities state that GDP has reportedly grown by 4.8 percent during the first half of 1992, compared to the same period of 1991. Nevertheless, some economic consultants have mentioned some very different figures.

**Monthly Inflation**
**January-August 1992**

| | |
|---|---|
| January | -0.31 |
| February | -0.68 |
| March | -0.12 |
| April | 0.41 |
| May | 0.46 |
| June | 2.12 |
| July | 0.33 |
| August | 0.56 |

Source: Department of Economic Studies, Central Bank

## Jamaica

### Michael Manley Visits Castro on Haitian Crisis

*FL0112021292 Bridgetown CANA in English 2222 GMT 30 Nov 92*

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Nov 30, CANA—Former Jamaica prime minister, Michael Manley, who has been attempting to mediate an end to Haiti's political crisis, was in Cuba Monday [30 November], talking with President Fidel Castro on the issue, aides confirmed.

Manley left for Havana Monday morning and was due back home Monday night, spokesmen confirmed. The Cuban Government had sent a special aircraft for the former Jamaica leader. Manley was accompanied by Tony Bogues, his special assistant.

The Organisation of American States has asked Manley to mediate between former Haitian president, Jean-Bertrand Aristide and the regime the military installed after ousting Aristide a year ago. Manley sees Aristide as the legitimate president of Haiti and says any resolution of the crisis should lead to his re-installation.

## St. Lucia

### Gas Stations Close in Protest Over Profit Limit

*FL3011191092 Bridgetown CANA in English 1854 GMT 30 Nov 92*

[By Peter Richards]

[Text] Castries, St. Lucia, Nov 30, CANA—Gas stations across the island were closed on Monday [30 November] as dealers carried out an indefinite strike over refusal by the St. Lucia Government to award them a higher profit margin.

"We are now awaiting a response from the government who has control over our retail margin. As soon as a positive response is received, all petrol stations will be re-opened," a statement from the St. Lucia Petroleum Dealers Association said on Monday.

The dealers are seeking a 10 per cent increase in their allowable profit margin, but the government has called for a reconsideration of such demands.

Long lines were formed at gas stations on Sunday as motorists tried to fill their vehicles in order to beat the deadline set by the gas dealers.

The dealers said that "our present strike action is a result of government's failure to grant us...the increase which we the dealers understood the Ministry of Trade have agreed to".

John Elliott, the association's president, told CANA the dealers want the government to reduce consumption taxes.

"We are talking about seven cents on leaded fuel, six cents on unleaded and 19 cents on diesel. That will allow us to make a 10 per cent profit, it will not affect the retail price to consumers," he said.

But the Ministry of Trade in a statement last weekend, warned of "serious implications" for the local economy if increases in profit margins were granted.

The ministry said that the government had been giving "careful consideration" not only to the dealers' request, but also to a thorough review of the pricing structure for petroleum products.

The ministry has urged the dealers to "await the outcome of these deliberations".

But Elliot has dismissed the suggestions saying the government's statement "gave no indication" as to a time frame for the review.

Prime Minister John Compton, told reporters last week that he "did not know where they (the dealers) are getting" the additional profit from.

"I cannot see them asking motorists at this time to pay more for petrol, the prices of petrol have not changed, it has been the same for many years," Compton said.

The petroleum association groups 36 dealers islandwide.

At present leaded gas retails here at EC6.10 dollars (one EC dollar - 37 US cents) per gallon, with unleaded gas being sold at 6.50 dollars and diesel at six dollars a gallon.

## Tax Protests Turn Violent, Destructive in Laredo

*PA3011234792 Paris AFP in Spanish 1416 GMT 30 Nov 92*

[Text] Mexico City, 30 Nov (AFP)—Local press reported today that a wave of disturbances on 29 November in the city of Laredo in northeast Mexico were caused by some 15,000 people who were protesting various tax measures. Property damage was estimated at several million dollars and about 50 people were arrested.

According to official sources, a group took part in the protests hurling Molotov cocktails at customs installations, destroying paper work, technical equipment, and damaging the Complete Customs Automized System [Sistema Automatizado Aduanero].

The press reported that the demonstrators arrived at a bridge on the U.S. border shouting slogans against government tax policies and attacking a dozen fiscal agents, who in turn sought refuge in the U.S. installations. An undetermined number of demonstrators looted several trailers as well as customs warehouses, the Taumaulipas State authorities added.

The demonstrators protested, among other things, the official decision to reduce from $300 to $50 the amount of duty free foreign articles allowed to Mexicans who live in border towns, in addition to the $350 worth of food allowed to be imported duty free every month.

Other reasons for the protests include selective customs checks and a tightening of the entry of foreign vehicles.

According to various sources, two groups were involved in the disturbances. The pro-government Confederation of Mexican Workers called for one disturbance and the Authentic Party of the Mexican Revolution and the Party of the Democratic Revolution—both opposition parties—called for the other disturbance.

General Customs Director Manuel Gutierrez Nevi told the Monitor newscast that property damage amounts to about 62 billion pesos (over $22 million). He added that 38 percent of Mexico's foreign trade passes through the Laredo customs point. Gutierrez said that the bridge at the border was back to normal today.

## Salinas Departs for Visit to Argentina, Paraguay

*PA3011234892 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 30 Nov 92*

[Report by Juan Manuel Pereira]

[Text] President Carlos Salinas de Gortari will begin a five-day [as heard] trip to Argentina and Paraguay. He will attend three sessions of the Permanent Mechanism of Consultation and Political Coordination, also known as the Rio Group, in Buenos Aires on 1 and 2 December. The participants will analyze commitments made in earlier meetings on environmental protection, the war on drugs, and energy security. A discussion of the creation of representative bodies to strengthen Latin American unity will take precedence over discussions of political and economic matters.

Argentine President Carlos Saul Menem will welcome Salinas to Buenos Aires, and the two will hold private meetings to analyze bilateral relations. Mexico's National Congress authorized the president's trip to Argentina because our country considers Latin America to be a special region in terms of dialogue and cooperation. In addition, it is fundamental to promote and strengthen opportunities for economic, social, and cultural development.

President Salinas will fly from Buenos Aires to Paraguay at noon on 2 December on a state visit that will end on 3 December. This is the first time a Mexican head of state will visit this country. President Salinas will hold a private meeting with Paraguayan President Andres Rodriguez shortly after the former's arrival. Salinas will be declared a distinguished guest in Asuncion and will receive the keys to the city. President Salinas will also visit the Heroes' National Mausoleum where he will lay a wreath. He will later deliver speeches at both the Justice Palace and the National Congress. The visit to Paraguay is important due to the processes of modernization and democratization that country is experiencing, things that promotes cooperation. In addition, it will serve to reinforce Mexico's relations with the Southern Cone countries and promote more talks with this Southern Cone Common Market nation.

## El Salvador

### Cristiani Advises UN on Army Purge Measures

*PA0112033592 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 1 Dec 92*

[Text] A UN official has reported that President Alfredo Cristiani advised the United Nations of the administrative steps he has taken to purge the Armed Forces. According to the source, the measures, which are based on the recommendations presented by the Ad Hoc Commission, are satisfactory. He added that the UN will advise the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front that Cristiani has fulfilled his commitment.

The commission presented a list to the United Nations and President Cristiani with the names of those officers who must be transferred or removed, for having committed human rights violations or broken other laws during the civil war.

### Ponce Says Atlacatl Battalion Not To Demobilize

*PA3011234692 San Salvador TCS Television Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 30 Nov 92*

[Report by Violeta Polanco]

[Text] Atlacatl Battalion will not be demobilized until the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] disarms its fourth contingent and destroys its weapons. The fulfillment of the peace agreements apparently seems to be going through a crisis once again. The FMLN has not demobilized its fourth contingent because of a series of legal guarantees in its favor.

In view of this situation, the Armed Forces has also expressed their reserves regarding the dismantling of one of its most important battalions.

[Begin recording] [Defense Minister Rene Emilio Ponce] We are waiting for them to comply with the [words indistinct]. They should also begin implementing the process for the destruction of weapons. If this does not happen, the Atlacatl Battalion will not be demobilized. [end recording]

The defense minister also talked about coup speculations, which is a mechanism used by the FMLN to divert attention from the process.

[Begin Ponce recording] No one inside the Armed Forces is thinking about staging coups. This is a thing of the past. We are involved in a process of development aimed at professionalizing the Armed Forces. We have effectively contributed to this process. [end recording]

The military leader insisted that the FMLN leaders must comply with the peace agreements, because the government is providing the necessary legal mechanisms for their full incorporation into the political, economic, and social life of the country.

General Ponce, along with other high-ranking officers, participated in the closing ceremonies of the military games, which had not been held for the past 12 years.

### FMLN To Resume Demobilization 1 Dec

*PA0112040292 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 1 Dec 92*

[Text] The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, announced on 30 November that beginning 1 December it will demobilize the rest of the fourth 20 percent of its former combatants. This demobilization had been suspended temporarily last week. Regarding the presentation of the weapons inventory to be destroyed starting 1 December, the FMLN said it will not do so until the UN secretary general announces he is satisfied with the government measures to purge the Armed Forces.

The decision to resume the demobilization of the rest of the four 20 percent of its former combatants—a demobilization that was suspended nine days ago—was made after an emergency meeting of the FMLN General Command which evaluated compliance with the agreement on the Ad Hoc Commission and legal guarantees dealing with land and war disabled.

[Begin unidentified FMLN member recording] There is interest in finding some solution to pending problems. To show our willingness in this regard, we have decided to complete the return to civilian life of the fourth 20 percent of FMLN combatants on 1 December. [end recording]

On the morning of 30 November, Roberto Roca [FMLN General Command member Francisco Jovel] said the pending demobilization would not be carried out until the Legislative Assembly reforms the special law that suspends the eviction of landholders in former conflict zones. Nevertheless, things changed in the afternoon. Roca also said the FMLN will not submit the list of weapons to be destroyed to the United Nations until it receives a satisfactory reply from Secretary General Butrus-Ghali about the note on the military purge which President Cristiani should send to him on 30 November.

[Begin Roca recording] The presentation of the most current inventory, which includes precise specifications of sophisticated weapons, as well as the actual destruction of the weapons, is dependent on the UN secretary general being satisfied with the administrative measures the presidency must adopt with regard to the Ad Hoc Commission suggestions. [end recording]

According to the FMLN member, the FMLN wants 15 December to be the definitive date for the end of the cease-fire. He said he hopes that by that day, all the pending agreements will have been fulfilled. Roca also viewed as positive the UN Security Council's decision to extend for six months the mandate of the mission of UN Observers for El Salvador, Onusal.

### Revolutionary Front Urges FMLN To Withhold Weapons

*PA0112011792 San Salvador Radio Cadena VSU in Spanish 1200 GMT 30 Nov 92*

[Communique issued by the Salvadoran Revolutionary Front, FRS, in San Salvador on 29 November—figures as heard]

[Text] In view of the danger that will be faced by the Salvadoran people beginning on 15 December because of the total disappearance of the National Army for Democracy-Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [END-FMLN], the FRS reiterates its unyielding revolutionary struggle to achieve the ideals of Farabundo Marti, a system of equality for all.

In view of this situation, we announce to the government, the FMLN General Command, diplomatic corps in El Salvador, and all people, that the repressive violence unleashed by the death squads has not been eliminated from our country and extreme poverty is increasing every day.

2. In view of this situation, the FRS has the power and the duty to fight for the exploited and repressed classes, which for many years have remained under the military boot.

3. The deployment of Army troops in the entire national territory is a sign of danger for the Salvadoran people and for our fellow END fighters. With this operation, the government is showing its lack of commitment to a definitive suspension of the armed confrontation.

4. We make a call to the END fighters not to turn in their weapons and to unify the revolutionary struggle.

5. To workers, peasants, and students we ask them to join our ranks to fight off the fascist Nationalist Republican Alliance [ARENA] government.

6. Communiques prior to this one have not been published. The ones issued by the death squads have, therefore, if this one is not published we are going to take forceful measures.
[Signed] Salvadoran Revolutionary Front General Command
San Salvador, 29 November 1992

### Assembly Deputies Say FMLN Must Cut Excuses

*PA2811042292 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 26 Nov 92 p 2*

[Text] To some politicians, the announcement by the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] related to suspending the demobilization process, is seen mostly as "one more stumbling block in the peace process." Others believe it could be an announcement aimed "at calling attention."

Roberto Angulo, National Assembly president and Arena [Nationalist Republican Alliance] leader, stated on 25 November that regardless of what decision the FMLN decided to make, "the front must comply with its 15 December disarming." Angulo called on the Salvadoran people to maintain their faith in God that the peace process will have a happy ending.

Democratic Convergence [CD] Deputy Hector Silva believes the FMLN announcement to suspend its demobilization process should not be seen as a major crisis but as one of the many stumbling blocks in the peace process.

Despite the fact both deputies disagree ideologically, they coincided in expressing their belief that "by 15 December we are all going to reach the demobilization process."

On the other hand, Angulo recalled that on other occasions when the FMLN made similar announcements, these were easily solved; now the FMLN must comply with its commitment to demobilize before the Salvadoran people and the world.

Angulo called on the Salvadoran people to maintain its faith in God in that the FMLN will honor its commitment and can no longer continue making more and more excuses.

With respect to the FMLN position on the lack of sufficient guarantees to disarm, Angulo said "we have been walking together toward reconciliation for nearly a year. There is concrete evidence and proof that the people have forgiven them (the insurgents). We have extended our arms to them, and we have walked together toward peace. Either they are trying to justify their attitude, or it is merely an announcement in an attempt to draw attention."

They asked that "this should not be looked upon with pessimism." They also said the peace process in El Salvador is an example for the world. It has been nine months since the last shot was fired and that must be looked upon positively.

### FMLN Leadership Dissatisfied With Land Decree

*PA2911133092 San Salvador Canal Seis Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 28 Nov 92*

[Text] The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] has expressed its dissatisfaction with the temporary decree guaranteeing land transfers that was approved on 26 November by the Legislative Assembly. Salvador Samayoa expressed the discontent among members of the former guerrilla army command over this special land decree, approved by the Legislative Assembly. The reason is because they were not consulted during the debate on this decision.

[Begin recording] [Samoya] First, the FMLN was never consulted, despite the [UN] secretary general's 13 October proposal on the land issue. We and the government agreed at that time, and since then it has been clear that legislative steps would have to be taken to protect the land holders. This was widely discussed, but on 26

November the draft was presented to the Assembly without consulting the FMLN. [end recording]

The law does not deal with several very important issues, such as removing the former FMLN combatants who have already disarmed and are illegally occupying lands.

[Begin Samoya recording] We are taking measures to protect a fixed number of 25,000 peasants and field workers, while the UN secretary general's process is giving approximate numbers. Given that the National Commission for the Consolidation of Peace has not yet been completed, there is really no way to know, and we could have as many as 25,500. Why should the additional 500 people be left? The draft decree says they must visit a judge whenever they want to make a legal claim and handle it through the government land office. This does not give us any sort of security. This type of problem should be addressed by the Supervisory Commission, which was created in the peace agreements. [end recording]

On the FMLN warning of a possible coup d'etat, the leftist leader said this was based on trustworthy information about the resistance and discontent existing between the Armed Forces and the far right wing over the changes taking place in El Salvador.

### Peasant Group Opposes Decree on Land Transfers

*PA2911151492 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 28 Nov 92*

[Report by Balmore Parada]

[Text] The country's peasants have voiced their opposition to the legislative decree on the temporary land transfer law. Deputies approved a law with temporary measures and guarantees to implement a program that calls for land transfers and offers security for farm owners. The purpose of the law is to resolve the country's farm problems. Members of the Democratic Peasant Alliance [ADC], however, feel the decree would serve to legalize evictions.

[Begin recording, unidentified ADC leader] We feel the temporary decree is detrimental to the peace agreements signed between the government and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] in Chapultepec, Mexico. It seems to us the decree offers no guarantees because we feel the big problem here is that a large number of landholders are protected under the terms of the peace agreements. They total more than the 25,000 established in the UN proposal. We feel evictions are being made legal. For example, there are people holding lands that were occupied before 3 July, the date on which a well-known agreement was signed. They are landholders right now, because they fall within the terms of two agreements, namely the one signed by the ADC and the defense and agriculture ministers and the agreement mentioned in the peace accords. Those landholders are not among the 25,000 mentioned before. We feel the new decree will serve to evict them. That is why we do not agree with the decree signed by the Legislative Assembly. [end recording]

One of the ADC leaders commented on the deployment of soldiers to coffee fields to start on 16 December, as announced by President Alfredo Cristiani. The president announced soldiers will be deployed to the coffee fields to help the National Police provide security because of complaints of coffee thefts. The peasants opposed to the president's decision said it constitutes a violation of the peace agreements and the Constitution.

[Begin recording, unidentified ADC leader] Public security does not fall within the purview of the Army. We feel that Cristiani's announcement that he will send in the troops after 15 December directly harms the peace agreements and really constitutes a threat against our people, peasants who pick coffee. Many peasants will not pick coffee because the Army is going to be around. The Army inspires great fear or terror among the people. That is why a large number of people are not going to pick coffee. We are rejecting Cristiani's announced deployment for two reasons. For one thing, it violates the peace agreements. In addition, peasants fear the Army. They will not pick coffee because of the fear or terror they feel for the Army. [end recording]

The peasant leader added they will ask the Legislative Assembly to amend this decree, extending the two-month term given to resolve the land transfer problems, because the problems cannot be solved within that time. They are asking for one year.

## Guatemala

### Ruling on Amilcar Mendez Case Appealed

*PA2911201492 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 27 Nov 92 p 4*

[Text] The Attorney General's Office appealed on 26 November the release approval granted by a Quiche judge to Amilcar Mendez, who has been charged with terrorist activities, it was reported by Acting Attorney General Edgar Tuna Valladares.

The official added the assistant prosecutor in Quiche presented an appeal against the ruling of a judge who ordered Mendez' release.

According to Tuna Valladares, there is enough evidence to prove the Rujen Junam Ethnic Communities Council leader's participation in terrorist actions carried out in the capital of Quiche Department.

Tuna Valladares said the testimony given in court by two men arrested by the Quiche Police after they detonated two terrorist bombs is sufficient evidence to confirm Mendez' participation in illegal activities.

### MR-13 Announces 'Resurgence,' Makes Death Threats

*PA3011162592 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1705 GMT 29 Nov 92*

[Text] Guatemala City, 29 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—Former Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo (1986-1991) and his family received a death threat today by the 13 November Revolutionary Movement (MR-13), which announced in a communique its resurgence to "struggle for an authentic democracy."

According to the MR-13, Cerezo and his family, including his brother Milton and his son Marco Vinicio, "are guilty of stealing from the public treasury."

The revolutionary movement started on 13 November 1960 following the foiled coup d'etat headed by Lieutenant Marco Antonio Yon Sosa against General Ydigoras Fuentes' government.

In a communique sent to ACAN-EFE, the group states it had ceased operations following the death of its founder Yon Sosa, who was killed in the 1970's during an armed clash.

The communique underscores: "The MR-13 agrees ideologically and politically with Guatemalans and organizations that fight civically and peacefully for an authentic democracy for the middle classes."

The communique adds that they have no links with the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity [UNRG] and this is why the MR-13 has not taken part in the peace negotiations that the government has held with the UNRG since April 1991.

The MR-13 clandestinely installed itself somewhere in Guatemala on 13 November and its "military tribunal" studied the feasibility of allowing Guatemala one year to achieve true democracy.

The communique also announces the start of radio station "Voz de la Raza y la Libertad" [Voice of Race and Freedom], which according to them will operate on shortwave when the fighting starts, but no date is given.

It states that the "military tribunal" found guilty of "robbery of the public treasury and sentenced to maximum punishment Vinicio Cerezo, sons, and followers" as well as other former presidents, who were not identified.

The communique explains that "the looters of the people's money will be allowed one year, until 13 November 1993, to return the stolen property."

It warns, nevertheless, that unless a sentence suspension is approved, Cerezo, his brother Milton, and the son of the former president, Marco Vinicio, "will be executed at any moment."

The government authorities have not yet issued an opinion on the clandestine group's threats.

### Monetary Board Approves Agreement With IMF

*PA2511182892 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 1800 GMT 24 Nov 92*

[Text] The Monetary Board has approved an agreement with the IMF that stipulates the guidelines for the country's 1993 economic policies. Federico Linares Martinez, who is the Bank of Guatemala president, and Finance Minister Richard Aitkenhead signed the agreement with the IMF on 24 November. The agreement specifies that the IMF will give Guatemala a good conduct certificate and a loan for approximately $50 million.

The agreement will prompt, among others, an immediate rise in the cost of banking loans, an increase in the interest rates paid by the Bank of Guatemala in the [word indistinct], and an increase in the banking cash reserves rate by December.

Without doubt, the banking cash reserve rate will rise from the current 26 cents to 31 cents for each quetzal deposited in banks in Guatemala. The banking cash reserve rate is the amount each bank has to deposit in the Bank of Guatemala and is proportional to the money each bank has in its own deposits. Economic observers have pointed out that the increase of the banking cash reserve rate will diminish the money available for credit operations and, thus, loans will become more expensive.

## Honduras

### Government Condemns Coup Attempt in Venezuela

*PA0112040992 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 28 Nov 92 p 23*

[Text] On 27 November, Honduran President Rafael Leonardo Callejas, speaking on behalf of the Honduran Government, condemned the coup attempt against the constitutional Venezuelan Government of Carlos Andres Perez, and denied that a similar situation could emerge in Honduras.

The latest coup attempt in Venezuela prompted the Honduran Government to express solidarity with the Venezuelan president, because a coup violates the law and denies people the right to self-determination, which generates uncertainty in Latin American democracy.

It is expected that the coup attempt will be resolved favorably for Latin American democracy, Callejas said, adding that coups have a negative effect on the well-being of Latin American peoples. Callejas kept in contact with Venezuelan Ambassador Mario Tepedino to keep abreast of the fighting in Caracas and other Venezuelan cities.

The Honduran president said he was not aware of an alleged coup attempt in El Salvador. "I have no information in that regard," he said.

Callejas denied that there is an accommodating climate in Honduras for the military to carry out armed uprisings against the government because "there is a very clear sense of constitutional responsibility."

### President Callejas Travels to Rio Summit

*PA0112030992 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 30 Nov 92 p 4*

[Text] Tegucigalpa—President Rafael Callejas traveled to Argentina on 29 November to participate, as an observer, in the Rio Group presidential summit that begins on 1 December in Buenos Aires.

Callejas will represent the Central American countries in the summit which is not being attended by Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez and Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori.

"Both Central America and the Caribbean have been invited but only one president of each region participates in accordance with the rotation established in the previous summits," Callejas explained prior to beginning his trip to South America.

"We are going to observe. We are not taking any proposal because, although there are similarities, our economic and political relations and theirs form part of two different blocs," the president said when asked about his position at the presidential summit.

"We are going as observers. The proposals are discussed there and are based on the general interests of the American continent rather than of the region or the relationship we have with the Rio Group," he said.

The Rio Group is made up of Argentina, Bolivia, Uruguay, Chile, Paraguay, Brazil, Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela, Mexico, and Peru. Honduras is attending as representative of Central America while Jamaica represents the Caribbean countries.

### Taiwan Bank Governor Leaves for Home

*OW3011124892 Taipei CNA in English 0825 GMT 30 Nov 92*

[Text] Tegucigalpa, Nov. 29 (CNA)—Samuel Shieh, governor of the Cental Bank of China, left here Sunday [29 November] after attending the 1992 annual conference of the Central American Bank of Economic Integration (CABEI).

Shieh said before his departure that it was a fruitful trip. He exchanged views on bilateral and multilateral cooperation with the participants of the meeting, Shieh added.

He noted especially that although it was only a get-acquainted meeting between him and Pedro Aspe, Mexican's minister of finance, it will be a first step toward better mutual understanding.

Shieh said he had extended an invitation to Aspe, tipped to be the next presidential candidate of the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party, to visit the Republic of China [ROC].

As a CABEI member, the ROC will have more chances to take part in the economic activities in the Central American region, Shieh said.

Shieh will attend a meeting in Hong Kong before returning home.

## Panama

### Drug Commission Comments on Chiriqui Reports

*PA3011235592 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 30 Nov 92 p 100*

[Report by Yali Enriquez Pitti]

[Text] Leo Gonzalez, president of the National Assembly Drug Commission, stated that after listening to "torrents of reports" against officials who are members of the Attorney General's Office in Chiriqui Province, Attorney General Rogelio Cruz has no option other than to resign from his position, and some of his subordinates should do likewise.

Legislator Gonzalez reiterated that after receiving various reports during Drug Commission sessions in Chiriqui, he is more convinced with each passing day that "sooner or later justice will prevail". He added that "we are already closer to cleaning up the Attorney General's Office."

The Drug Commission president believes that after hearing reports from many Chiriqui citizens of corruption in the Attorney General's Office, Solicitor General Donatilo Ballesteros must rule against Mr. Rogelio Cruz, who must be removed from his position to "clean house".

The legislator said the Drug Commission sessions held in Chiriqui provided ample evidence to the Panamanian people that there is no political plot to dismiss Attorney General Rogelio Cruz, but it is the goal of many Panamanians to put a definitive end to corruption in the Attorney General's Office.

"We congratulate the people of Chiriqui for their courage in presenting reports against corrupt officials who are entrenched in the Attorney General's Office, the judicial branch, and other government branches," Legislator Gonzalez stated.

He said due to the seriousness of the charges made before the Drug Commission in David, Chiriqui, the commissioners will be forced to analyze the disclosures very carefully to show the Panamanian people that the National Assembly is willing to contribute toward cleaning up the Attorney General's Office.

Legislator Camilo Brenes, also a member of the Drug Commission, announced that the legislative commission will request a copy of Writ No. 522 of 24 August [1992]. The writ was sent to the Attorney General's Office with information related to the alleged movement of illegal Chinese aliens in Chiriqui Province, supposedly involving Special District Attorney Emilio De Leon and his mother, Mrs. Nelva De Leon. Brenes warned that the disclosures must be investigated very carefully by the Drug Commission because some people have said the illegal activity could be linked to drug trafficking and money laundering.

He added that the Drug Commission received all types of disclosures when it decided to hold a session in Chiriqui last week. Some of the information will be passed on to the Government and Justice Commission, and the others will be sent to the National Assembly Human Rights Commission.

So far, disclosures of an alleged cover-up of drug trafficking and money laundering crimes weigh heavily against Special District Attorney Emilio De Leon and Attorney General Rogelio Cruz. The Drug Commission also received other accusations against some police and justice authorities during its session in Chiriqui.

The Legislative Assembly Drug Commission will have to prepare the suit and a coherent evaluation of the charges—stipulating the where, when, and how—to allow the drug commission members to make a sound and comprehensive decision.

Former Special District Attorney Rodrigo Miranda Morales presented the most lengthy charge to the Legislative Assembly Drug Commission members in Chiriqui. Miranda gave the legislators an extensive list of the habeas corpus issued by legal authorities to release well-known drug traffickers in Chiriqui Province.

During the 27 November meeting in David, Rodrigo Miranda Morales supplied the Legislative Assembly Drug Commissioners with reports on the release of citizens Ricardo Navas, Guillermo Amaya, and Roger Guerra. According to Miranda, the aforementioned persons are drug traffickers who have been released by the Attorney General's Office and judicial authorities in Chiriqui.

According to Miranda, the Superior Court judges who have released drug traffickers in Chiriqui are: Milza de Aguilera, Carlos Guillermo Quiroz, Luis Mario Carrasco, Fernando Fabian Gutierrez, and Asuncion Castillo.

During his appearance before the Legislative Assembly Drug Commission in Chiriqui, not only did lawyer Rodrigo Miranda report the participation of several Attorney General's Office and judicial officials in alleged corrupt actions related to drug trafficking, but he also presented charges against President Guillermo Endara Galimany in connection with drug trafficking and money laundering.

## Documents Link Endara With Money Laundering

*PA0112014592 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 30 Nov 92 p 100*

[Report by Aneldo Arosemena]

[Text] EL SIGLO has gained access to documents showing that attorneys Hernan Delgado Quintero and Cesar Guevara participated in commercial transactions of corporations used for laundering drug trafficking money.

Delgado and Guevara are associates of President Guillermo Endara in the law firm of Solis, Endara, Guevara, and Delgado. President Endara is a partner in the firm. This law firm was a member of the board of directors of at least seven corporations used for about 10 years to launder no less than $2 billion in drug money.

An investigation carried out by DEA Special Agent Ivette Torres, a Puerto Rican, revealed that the corporations belong to Cuban-Americans Guillermo Falcon and Salvatore Magluta, who created them through a Hispanic attorney named Juan Acosta. Acosta then transferred the companies to the president's law firm.

The report was disclosed at the beginning of 1991 when Gerardo Gonzalez, a legislator for the pro-Noriega opposition Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD), showed the DEA documents signed by Ivette Torres that uncovered the link between Endara, Delgado, and Guevara and these corporations.

There was a lot of speculation about how Gonzalez came into possession of such papers. It was even said that the U.S. Embassy had given them to him as embassy officials had held a meeting with the PRD directorate at that time. Now, however, it is believed that a former official from the Attorney General's Office supplied the documents after being fired by Attorney General Rogelio Cruz at the request of Delgado himself.

Juan Acosta was a Cuban-American lawyer who used to handle "certain jobs" for the president's firm, as he himself admitted. Acosta was murdered on 18 September 1989 by a Medellin Cartel hit man. Endara publicly admitted that Acosta had been his friend and had formed the corporations in the 1970's. He said Acosta had transferred the corporations to him and later, in 1987, had taken them back due to the 1987-1989 political crisis for fear that Noriega might use Endara's partnership as a weapon to "discredit" the opposition. Some of the corporations were placed under the control of Jose Alberto Alvarez, current president of the National Bar Association, and Gabriel Castro, former vice treasury minister.

Delgado and his associates have maintained that they only served as board officers and resident representatives for the Falcon and Magluta corporations. Despite this, EL SIGLO has received documents registered at the Public Registrar's office in Dade County, Miami, Florida, that show Guevara and Delgado participated in

the sale and purchase of real estate for PILEA S.A., which is one of the corporations being investigated by the DEA.

Frank Rubino, the same attorney who defended Noriega against drug trafficking charges filed by a Miami district attorney, is also an attorney for Falcon and Magluta. The Magluta trial was postponed until the middle of 1993 and will include the testimony of Delgado, Guevara, and maybe even Noriega.

Hernan Delgado has maintained that there is a "campaign" against him and that the president is the real target because their friendship and partnership are well known. Delgado's version, however, cannot stand up against the large amount of documents and testimony that link these attorneys with local and international scandals.

## Attorney General 'Pressured' by Political Parties

*PA0112043092 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 30 Nov 923*

[Text] Attorney General Rogelio Cruz has met with Supreme Court President Carlos Lucas Lopez to discuss different aspects of the judicial system. As he was leaving, Cruz said he was being pressured by political parties.

[Begin recording] [Cruz] There are tacit pressures that have led to campaigns, bombings, and a series of actions aimed at preventing me from investigating certain persons.

[Unidentified reporter] Do these political party-related actions have anything to do with the bomb that was placed at the Attorney General's Office?

[Cruz] I do not rule out that possibility. [end recording]

In addition, Attorney General Rogelio Cruz said he has reports that indicate Jaime Abad, director of the Judicial Technical Police [PTJ], requested the dismissal of the deputy director of this institution, Carlos Landero.

[Begin recording] [Cruz] When the people understand that justice should not only be applied to those who governed in the past, but should also be for those presently in government—when the people understand this, these kinds of altercations will end and I will be able to do my job.

[Reporter] Many cases of corruption among top officials have been detected. Is this the reason you find yourself in this situation?

[Cruz] Yes, that is the problem.

[Reporter] Who are they?

[Cruz] I think these people are well known by now.

[Reporter] Why did it take you so long to say there was a spy office at the PTJ? Why did you not report it before?

[Cruz] We reported things when we were asked about it at the drug committee meeting in Chiriqui Province, and, of course, immediately after we knew about it. We could not report something we did not previously know about.

[Reporter] Why are these accusations emerging just when you are having a controversy with the PTJ director?

[Cruz] I knew nothing about it until this time. Had I known about it before, I would have taken the measures to prevent it.

[Reporter] Thank you. [end recording]

## Ford Comments on Availability of Public Funds

*PA3011173392 Panama City CRITICA LIBRE in Spanish 29 Nov 92 p 48,36*

[Report by Yodalis Bethancourt]

[Text] In a speech on 28 November on behalf of President Guillermo Endara, Vice President Guillermo Ford stated: "The fairy tales are over, the deceptions are over, any person who says there are no funds, let them prove it to me. I have the figures that confirm that funds are available." Ford's statements were made during events commemorating the 171st anniversary of Panama's independence from Spain. On several occasions, he pointed out that there are funds in the National Bank and called it a crime to have these funds just sitting in the government's accounts, especially at a time when the people are calling for solutions.

Ford, who during his term as planning and economic policy minister supported payments to the International Financial Institutions (IFIS), said it would be humiliating for the Endara administration to end its term in office by giving preference to settling international financial obligations instead of solving the social needs of the Panamanian people.

In a speech made in the community of Chorrera on behalf of the president as well as himself, the second vice president said that during the next few days, there will be an in-depth evaluation of the entire situation that is currently taking place, as well as more joint cooperation with the National Assembly. According to Ford, the people are tired of speeches, of the IFIS, and hearing about millions and yet "there is no medicine in the hospitals, no equipment, no roads, or anything else." Vice President Ford promised to recommend an initiative with President Endara to make more efficient use of all resources to reach the most distant regions of the country.

## Argentina

### Justicialists Keep Grip on Lower House Leadership

*PY2711224992 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 27 Nov 92 p 11*

[Excerpt] (NA-DYN)—Deputy Alberto Pierri (Justicialist-Buenos Aires), in a virtually unanimous vote, was re-elected to his fifth consecutive term as speaker of the Lower House yesterday while other leaders in the chamber also won new terms.

The line-up of Lower House officials will thus look the same after December 10, when the new term begins, as it does now. The Justicialist Party, which holds a plurality of the House's seats, will retain its grip not only on the speaker's position but on that of first vice-president, which will be filled then as now by Luis Martinez of San Juan.

Meanwhile, despite the protests of a faction within the Radical bloc that the main opposition party deserved the first vice-presidency the party will maintain its presence in the sole form of second Vice-President Mario Brook from Cordoba. [passage omitted]

### Gomez Sabaini Becomes Army Deputy Chief of Staff

*PY3011191792 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1400 GMT 30 Nov 92*

[Text] Buenos Aires, 30 Nov (NA)—Brigade General Raul Gomez Sabaini was installed this morning as new Army deputy chief of staff. He replaces General Mario Candido Diaz who will assume the post of joint staff chief this afternoon.

Gomez Sabaini was installed during a ceremony at the Libertador Building, the Army headquarters. He used the opportunity to demand from his subordinates a "vocation for service to their fellow citizens, the institution, and peace," as well as "observance of the national Constitution."

### Defense Minister on Benefits to Condor Dismantling

*PY2811114892 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2321 GMT 27 Nov 92*

[Text] Buenos Aires, 27 Nov (NA)—Defense Minister Antonio Erman Gonzalez today stated that the dismantling of the Condor-II missile project will enable Argentina "to gain access, through international organizations, to technologies it would not have had otherwise."

Gonzalez said: "When this government initiated an open policy and emphasized the need to gain access, for economic reasons, to various types of technology, the decision to deactivate the missile project began to take shape."

The civilian commission which is now in charge of what was left of the old Condor-II project started contacts with several countries, Spain included, and finally concluded "a joint reserach agreement for the purpose of improving the quality of life."

Gonzalez added: "The Argentine decision has great significance, especially as a symbol, in determining whether the national government, whether the country, is willing to open up to the world in order to be able to receive technology."

Gonzalez admitted that the Condor subject had been taken "as a matter of pride, as a major defense weapon, but I believe that is a mistake."

Gonzalez added: "This is a myth that ought to be put aside because having a mass destruction weapon will not guarantee our defense; our vulnerability lies somewhere else, that is, on the economic front."

He denied reports that pieces of the missile will be publicly destroyed, as Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella reportedly has suggested. He stated that the ultimate objective is to seek a peaceful project that will benefit not only the two countries—Argentina and Spain—but also the rest of the world.

Gonzalez also tacitly admitted the possibility of dismantling the Domec Garcia shipyards "where nearly $1 billion have been invested to build submarines and where not even half a submarine has been built during the past 10 years. We no longer can indulge in this type of utopic project."

### British Envoy 'Extremely Optimistic' on Relations

*PY2711224792 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 27 Nov 92 p 11*

[From the "Argentina in Brief" column]

[Text] (DYN)—British Ambassador Humphrey Maud recognized that Britain and Argentina "are never going to have a relationship without some clouds," even though he saw relations between the two countries growing "warmer every day and with greater mutual trust." Maud was speaking informally last night at the Progress Club in the Federal Capital, and in spite of his remarks said he felt "extremely optimistic" about future relations. He pointed out that British companies are ready to participate in this government's privatization projects, and noted that British exports to Argentina are now 82 percent higher that for the same period last year. Maud admitted that the search for oil around the Malvinas islands "is a delicate issue" but said it offered the chance for both countries to work together.

### Unions Agree To Privatization of Pension Funds

*PY2711214192 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 27 Nov 92 p 3*

[Excerpt] (DYN-NA)—The government yesterday received the go-ahead from the CGT [General Confederation of Labor] for its social security reform, based mainly on privatizing the currently state-managed pension funds.

A pact to that effect was signed yesterday by the Production Council of business leaders, farmers representatives and labour leaders, with the only exception of the FAA [Argentine Agrarian Federation] farmers group which did not sign.

It opens the way for unions to become pension funds managers, a multi-billion dollar business based on mandatory wage deductions for the funds.

Freedom of choice was guaranteed in the act signed by the labour unions yesterday, who will enjoy a captive market among their own union members.

The act opens the way for the consideration of the social security reform bill by Congress, although opposition deputies yesterday said that the government will not have an easy time getting these approved despite the government's agreement signed yesterday.

The initiative will go to the Lower House where it must be treated before the end of December. Nevertheless, opposition deputies and some Justicialists have said that it will be difficult to win a majority vote for this project because of the opposition to the obligatory capitalization of the pension funds. [passage omitted).

### Fishing Agreement Signed With EEC

*PY3011211492 Buenos Aires Radio Nacional Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 30 Nov 92*

[Report by Silvina Martinez Porta]

[Text] Argentina and the EEC signed at noon today an agreement on deep-sea fishing, the first one to be signed between the EEC and a Latin American country. This agreement is also the first one to reflect the spirit of the so-called second generation agreements, which contemplate the establishment of joint ventures between EEC and Argentine ship-building companies using ships sailing under the EEC flag.

The agreement was signed by Argentine Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella and Manuel Marin, deputy chairman of the EEC committee in charge of the fishing policy. President Menem also attended the ceremony.

The most salient aspects of this agreement are the establishment of stable and lasting relations between EEC and Argentine shipbuilding companies and a framework for scientific and technological cooperation. It will enable the EEC to significantly reduce the idle capacity of the EEC fishing fleet and to have access to large fisheries.

Di Tella adressed the audience of EEC ministers and ambassadors attending the ceremony, which took place at the White Hall of Government House. Di Tella stated that the fishing industry has expanded greatly over the last three years.

[Begin Di Tella recording] I believe that once again, sound policies have yielded positive results. We have always supported this general principle in theory, but now that we see it come true we feel much encouraged. I would, nonetheless, like to underscore the fact, which Mr. Marin has also mentioned, that we do not want to embark on fishing activities that ignore the preservation of natural resources. We are very much interested in that, first and foremost because it is part of the environmental protection policy, which you, Mr. President, and the government have followed in all spheres, especially in the tapping of fisheries. Without the preservation of this natural resource the road ahead of us would be bleak. If we opt for preservation, the future is unlimited and will benefit all mankind and the parties involved in the region.

Another subject in which we have been and will be extremely cautious is the desire to implement a fishing policy without political objectives. We have carefully discussed this with the EEC so as to eliminate any political implications in order to reach a good business deal for the two parties. That is what we wanted. We want a permanent and lasting business. [end recording] The agreement will regulate fishing relations between the two parties for five years, and if there are no objections it will be automatically renewed for two years. It will also allow 70 EEC ships to fish in the area, and the joint ventures that will be created will receive EEC financing. The EEC will also grant commercial concessions to Argentina. The agreement includes mutual scientific and technical cooperation to promote the preservation and exploitation of national resources.

Following the ceremony, Marin gave a news conference in the Government House press room. When asked if the United Kingdom, as a permanent member of the EEC, could veto the agreement on account of the current situation in its relations with Argentina, Marin said:

[Begin Marin recording] The fishing agreement pertains to the EEC whose member countries are submitted to a qualified majority system, that is, they are submitted to the rule of unanimity. Consequently, your question simply reflects a theoretical case. Anyway, I must point out that I do not at all think that the United Kingdom should be willing to veto this kind of agreement between the EEC and Argentina. [end recording]

Marin was decorated by President Menem with the order of the Great Cross of General San Martin.

### Brazil's Franco Arrives for Rio Group Summit

*PY3011231492 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2230 GMT 30 Nov 92*

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 30 Nov (TELAM) — Acting Brazilian President Itamar Franco indicated that he has "frank expectations" regarding the outcome of the meeting of the presidents of the Rio Group as a channel for the consolidation of Latin America's democratic processes.

Franco arrived on board a Brazilian Air Force plane just before 1700 [1900 GMT] at the military sector of Metropolitan Airport. As of 1 December he will participate, together with 10 colleagues, in the sixth presidential summit of the Rio Group.

He was met at the airport by Juan Carlos Kreckler, national director of ceremonies of the Foreign Ministry; Vice Commodore Ricardo Grunet, chief of the military base; and by Brazilian Foreign Minister Fernando Cardoso, who was already in the country participating in the summit's preparatory meetings. [passage omitted]

### Bolivia's Paz Zamora Arrives for Rio Group Summit

*PY0112014392 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0115 GMT 1 Dec 92*

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires 30 Nov (TELAM) — Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora maintained that it is fundamental that "joint action in the economic and social sectors of all of the countries of the region" must be discussed during the summit of the presidents of the Rio Group.

Paz Zamora arrived just after 2000 [2200 GMT] at the military section of Metropolitan Airport, where he was met by Juan Carlos Kreckler, national director of ceremonies of the Foreign Ministry; Bolivian Foreign Minister Ronald MacLean; Bolivian Ambassador Agustin Saavedra; and Vice Commodore Ricardo Grunert, chief of the military base. [passage omitted]

## Bolivia

### Nationalist Democratic Action Deputy Murdered

*PY3011211792 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 30 Nov 92*

[Excerpts] The murder of Nationalist Democratic Action Deputy Ramiro Revuelta Iriarte, a native of Cochabamba, on 28 November in the Yungas region has shocked all political circles both in the Yungas and at the national level, and has provoked consternation and uneasiness. Reporter Edgar Zarate now reports from Caranavi on Revuelta's murder:

[Begin recording] Thirty-millimeter rifles and .45-caliber pistols might have been used to murder Deputy Revuelta Iriarte, who had been made a freeman of the city of Caranavi two months ago, as recognition for his work as drafter of the provincialization law enacted by Congress.

The attack was perpetrated by some eight people, allegedly dressed in [words indistinct] prison uniforms, at a sharp bend, where Revuelta Iriarte had decreased speed in his olive green Toyota Land Cruiser jeep. The scene of the attack is a country road in (Magasa Colony), located 300 meters before the [words indistinct].

As was reported on 28 November, Revuelta's body was found on the ground on the left side of his jeep. He had been hit by several bullets of various calibers, including three fatal ones—a bullet in the head, near his left earlobe; another in the breastbone; and a third one in the left intercostal area. [passage omitted]

The only witness to the murder is a 12-year-old girl, who was riding with Revuelta in his jeep. She is so shocked that she has thus far been unable to give any information on the attack. [passage omitted]

It has been speculated that the motive for the crime could have been either robbery, personal vengeance, or a left-wing political plot. [passage omitted] [end recording]

### Alleged Cali Cartel Leader Attempts 2d Escape

*PY0112021992 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 18 Nov 92 Section 2 p 1*

[Text] Cochabamba, 17 Nov (PRESENCIA)—The police thwarted the second escape attempt of alleged Cali Cartel boss Celimo Andrade Quintero, alias "Danilo," who planned to escape with five inmates of the San Antonio Penitentiary.

To this end, the escape was planned with the participation of six people specially hired in our country for amounts ranging between $5,000 and $20,000.

It was reported that an alleged henchman, who was also specially hired, was involved in this case. The henchman, along with other people, was supposed to overpower the guards and—if necessary—kill them.

Juan Carlos Suarez Melgar, identified by the police as a daring assassin, was supposed to rescue the detained drug traffickers and carry out the escape using firearms, vehicles, communications equipment, and a copy of the key to the penitentiary's main gate.

After the operation, the fugitives were supposed to go to Oruro where a safe house had been prepared.

This is the second failed attempt to free Colombian "Danilo" Andrade, and considering that he is a drug trafficking "big shot," the possibility that these efforts will continue, with the participation of Colombian henchmen, has not been ruled out.

Considering this possibility, Cochabamba Departmental Police Commander Colonel Ramon Esprella Campos said a request will be made to transfer the Colombian drug trafficker to the Chonchocoro Jail in La Paz.

More information on this foiled escape attempt is expected, especially concerning the identification of the people involved and whether penitentiary personnel were involved.

## Brazil

### Senate Committee Approves Collor's Dismissal

*PY2711174592 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1630 GMT 27 Nov 92*

[Text] Brasilia, 27 Nov (EFE)—The congressional report recommending the sentence and definitive dismissal of suspended President Fernando Collor was approved today by 16 votes in favor and one against by the Senate impeachment committee.

After five hours of deliberations, characterized by a verbal struggle between the defense lawyers and the accusers, the committee voted on the report prepared by centerist Senator Antonio Mariz, who is a retired prosecutor.

The report will be submitted to a vote on 1 December by the Senate, of 81 members which must ratify the committee's decision on the impeachment that was signed by delegates of the ten parties represented in the Senate.

The final decision on the impeachment process will be voted on between 18 and 22 December.

### Collor's Defense Makes Final Summation

*PY2811193792 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 26 Nov 92 p 7*

[Italicized passages in Italian]

[Text] Brasilia—The following are the main points of the final summation submitted yesterday by lawyers for suspended President Fernando Collor:

In the process for malfeasance, the trial is juridical but the sentence can be of a political nature: dismissal from office and disqualification for eight years to hold a public post.

The historical experience in the U.S. Senate shows that all the impeachment cases were tried based on the evidence and the law, that the accused had the principle of presumption of innocence in their favor, and that they were absolved in the real absence of evidence of malfeasance or common crime.

In the current process, the accusers talked a great deal about inaccuracies, but the great inaccuracy was to make an initial accusation based on the existence of a crime of corruption. The accusers pretended contradictorily that a political judgment would be made. This trick uncovers the fragility of the accusation. Not being able to prove that an inappropriate benefit was received—which was persistently bragged about for several months—the accusers asked that the existence of a crime be recognized despite the lack of convincing evidence. They labeled this, euphemistically, political judgment when in reality it was only an unfair condemnation without evidence.

In sum, what was proven without any doubt is that President Fernando Collor did not hurt public money or that he got any benefits from it.

Regarding the illegal activities of Paulo Cesar Farias, who was accused of trafficking of influence, no evidence was presented that President Fernando Collor de Mello got any benefits from those activities. Even his most implacable accuser, Pedro Collor, dared not say his brother knew of the illegal activities investigated by the CPI [Congressional Investigating Committee]. A lecture on the declarations made by the participant in this deplorable family drama leads to the conclusion that Paulo Cesar Farias exploited, along with third parties, the prestige that everyone thought he had because he was the old coordinator of the presidential campaign.

It is evident that Farias did not have any special prestige with the president of the Republic. So much so, that none of the companies or people named as influence-peddling victims really benefited from government officials' acts. On the contrary: Never have so many economic abuse of power charges been pressed as in the last two years. They have been pressed against companies contained in the list of enterprises that granted favors to Farias.

Cement industries such as the Votorantim Group, for example—the honorable president of which determined that more than $200,000 be transferred to one of Farias' companies—were later investigated by Sunab [National Supplies Superintendency]. These investigations resulted in lawsuits filed by the National Secretariat for Economic Laws. The lawsuits then were sent to the Administrative Council for Economic Defense (Cade).

Therefore, there is no relation between Farias' influence peddling and the deposits and payments mentioned in this inquest, which have been made—we will repeat this until someone pays attention to this detail—since the days of the electoral campaign and also during the administrative transition period preceding the installment, which occurred on 15 March 1990. At this time, no influence peddling or corruption can have occurred.

Evidence obtained in the inquest leads us to admit that the campaign resources, particularly those obtained during the campaign days, and the funds resulting from the investment made with the loan obtained in Uruguay have been the real source of the deposits and payments.

In view of this, in a bat's zigzagging movement, the prosecution began to consider the alleged irregularities related to campaign finances and the supposed illegality of the "Uruguay Operation" malfeasance-in-office crimes.

These two new foundations, which were used as an excuse for the impeachment, are not enough to justify the dismissal of a president of the Republic who has been democratically elected.

Regarding the use of electoral campaign resources, it has already been sufficiently proven that the fact consists of an electoral crime. In addition, it must again be remembered: "The president of the Republic may not, during his term of office, be held liable for acts outside the scope of his duties." (Article 86, Paragraph 4, of the Constitution)

The same thing occurs regarding the "Uruguay Operation:" It does not constitute a crime and is not related to the president of the Republic's scope of duties.

Consequently, the new facts attributed to the accused party are not covered in Articles 8 and 9 of Law No. 1079/50, in which malfeasance-in-office crimes are defined.

When Mr. Motta Veiga first reported on certain irregularities at the moment of tendering his resignation as Petrobras [Brazilian Petroleum Corporation] president, the president of the Republic forbade, in a cabinet meeting, anyone to speak on his behalf.

Later on, when his brother Pedro's charges erupted, the president of the Republic instructed the justice minister to adopt the necessary steps to open a police inquest to investigate the charges. He could not have done more than that and if he had, he would have been adopting illegal measures. Several people, however, advised him to order Farias' arrest and the confiscation of his assets. Although of great publicity value, this decision would have been arbitrary and legally groundless.

Only through an exaggerated interpretative elasticity could the so-called lack of decorum be considered a crime against administrative probity, which is an expression related to honesty in dealing with public funds and to honesty in the relations between officials and private citizens.

In a fair and impartial trial, Mr. Fernando Collor de Mello's dismissal from the presidency of the Republic would be inadmissible. The only action taken in virtue of his office that could consist of lack of decorum would have been unduly receiving benefits resulting from Paulo Cesar Farias' influence peddling. This act, however, has not been proven, primarily because it has not occurred. The other acts—use of resources donated during the electoral campaign and borrowing of money in Uruguay and investing it—are not malfeasance-in-office crimes or common crimes. In addition, they are acts outside the scope of presidential duties.

We have faith that the eminent senators will realize that the prosecutors' assertions are nothing but *a deluge of words over a desert of ideas* (Scipio Sighele). In the haste of handing in in only 48 hours a plea that could be judiciously conceived in 15 days, the prosecutors overlooked the evidence and the laws.

The defense does not ignore the extent of the pressure exerted by important and respectable segments of the public opinion, and also knows, as Titta Mazzuca acknowledges in his *Anatomy of the Judicial Mistakes*, that it is hard to resist this type of coercion. The Italian jurist states, however, that *the judges must be impervious to pressure* and base their rulings on the evidence and the laws.

We are confident that, independently of their convictions and interests, the honorable congressmen will know how to resist. If they do so, when this storm is over, the people—who are wise—will respect them much more because they had the courage of being fair.

We hope that, in accordance with the laws, the charges are deemed groundless.

## Roundtable Held on Economics, Corruption, IMF

*PY3011224492 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 29 Nov 92 p 12*

["Highlights" of the first "roundtable" discussion held within the framework of the "Agenda for the Future" series of debates, interviews, and reportage organized by O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO. Planning Minister Paulo Haddad, Social Security Minister Antonio Britto, and Deputy Roberto Freire (People's Socialist Party—Pernambuco State), government leader at Chamber of Deputies, participated in this discussion held in Sao Paulo on 25 November]

[Text] Fiscal Reform

[O ESTADO] Does the government still hope Congress will approve the fiscal reform bill before the end of the year?

[Freire] The first reaction to the bill was very negative. Several items in the bill, however, have not been criticized.

[Britto] Congressmen have reacted only to certain items. Each sector, with its private point of view, criticized only a certain item. However, fiscal reform is good or bad only if the average of its effects is good or bad according to the majority of the citizens.

[Freire] Congress today began to have a consensus regarding some aspects of the reform bill. A series of proposals already have been accepted by deputies such as Francisco Dornelles (Liberal Front Party—Rio de Janeiro), Jose Serra (Brazilian Social Democracy Party—Sao Paulo), Aloizio Mercadante (Workers' Party—Sao Paulo), and Luiz Salomao (Democratic Workers' Party—Rio de Janeiro), for example.

[Britto] Consensus is being achieved even with regard to changes in bank secrecy policy, which was so rejected in the first day.

[Freire] There is more support than I first expected for a broader reform. I knew Congress would approve something more than the mere creation of an end-of-year tax seeking to solve the goverment's cash problem, but I did not expect it to become so broad. I believe that, even if we take into consideration that the project must be voted on in two rounds, the bill will have been approved by the Chamber of Deputies by 18 December at most. After the Deputies solve the problem, I am certain the Senate will also approve the project.

[Britto] This is the difference between a package and a democratic debate. The governmental proposal deals with counties, states, the federal government, and the financial, industrial, and agricultural sectors.

[O ESTADO] Will the goals established by the Asuncion Treaty—which contemplates that the economic barriers among the Common Market of the South (Mercosur) countries will have ceased to exist at the beginning of 1995—be maintained? Argentine Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo says that this deadline may be reviewed.

[Haddad] The problem lies in Argentina, not in Brazil. The Argentine Government has implemented a high-risk stabilization program similar to our Cruzado Plan, which either works very well or very badly. The moment the dollar exchange rate was fixed at 10,000 australes, a vulnerable scheme was established. In such cases, an increase in the amount of imports may create the fear of an increasing public deficit and that the government will print money. This is what has been happening in Argentina. The Mercosur problem lies on one of the member countries, which is not Brazil. We have no reason to call for a delay in complying with this goal.

[O ESTADO] What is the Franco Administration planning to do to reduce corruption?

[Haddad] This problem has very clear aspects. By dismissing the high-ranking officials of an administration marked by corruption, we do not destroy the corruption machinery. To modify the corruption culture, we are strengthening the figure of the special court inspector [ouvidor geral], who can listen to and inspect any possible corruption charge. We must also structure and improve the Comptroller General's Office, the Federal Revenue, and the entire system of agents and inspectors.

[Britto] The idea adopted by the Collor administration that the government is, basically, a job-providing entity [empreguista] has strengthened the conviction that the machinery had to be dismantled. The fact is that this dismantling has been selective and that, currently, it is almost impossible to find attorneys, auditors, agents, and inspectors. The Social Security sector has 2,300 inspectors in charge of controlling the activities of 2.5 million companies and 600 attorneys in charge of collecting 260,000 fiscal executions [execucoes fiscais] already filed at court. With the nonsensical idea of making available the public employees, the good and experienced public employees leave. Only people who have been in their positions for no more than two seconds remain to look after trillions of cruzeiros. In an effort to improve this situation, we are putting one portable computer in the hands of each National Social Security Institute agent. This, however, is a very weak weapon.

[Freire] Perhaps certain values will be recovered. I believe that the level of public administration corruption has decreased very much. I can give an example that has become very clear to all: The last electoral campaign has been one of the cheapest ever. There has been economic power abuse, particularly in Sao Paulo where the state machinery has been activated, but links between candidates and economic groups have decreased very much for fear of falling in the hands of people similar to Paulo Cesar Farias.

[O ESTADO] Realistically, how can we forecast the behavior of the inflation rate?

[Haddad] I don't like to establish goals because, although an objective can seem remote now, it will become closer and then it will create unrest. I believe, however, that we can work with the possibility that by December 1993 we will have an inflation rate of about 13 percent. This is a realistic figure.

Any commitment to further curb inflation would require a cut in public spending and financing similar only to the times of the dictatorship. However, the country is returning to democracy. The interest groups are structured. Mayors, governors, and congressmen are exerting pressure.

[Britto] The main concern is to resume development, which means progress for the whole society. The first thing is to defeat inflation.

[O ESTADO] Is it possible to simultaneously curb inflation and resume employment-generating investments?

[Haddad] If the fiscal adjustment bill is approved, the interest rates should drop, warming up the economy. For example, according to some indicators, in April or May inflation was dropping to the point of reaching 19 percent monthly. What happened then? Investments began heating up. We believe there is great potential for investments and that we may adopt some stronger measures to defeat inflation the moment we feel more secure. Naturally, this is not an unorthodox plan. If the government recovers its credibility in the capital market when paying part of its debt, the government could issue securities, perhaps with monetary correction and the backing of its reserves, to attract resources for investment programs.

[O ESTADO] How could the government use its reserves to issue those securities?

[Haddad] Planalto Palace has received several ideas, which we call strong proposals. One of them was sent by economist Joao Sayad. He suggests asking governors to reduce the Goods and Services Movement Tax (ICMS)

by 50 percent; they would be compensated by allowing them to issue securities. This could reduce the tax burden which would stimulate the economy.

[O ESTADO] Is the concern with the increase of poverty and social differences really the priority of the Itamar administration?

[Haddad] Behind the scenes, there is a more serious situation: The permanent impoverishment of the population. During Juscelino Kubitschek's administration [1956 - 1961], there existed what was called relative poverty. During the economic miracle years [1964 - 1985] there existed absolute poverty. During the nineties, we reached Asiatic poverty or, as I would rather call it, abject poverty. We currently have 43 million Brazilians living in misery. Therefore, I think this is a crisis situation and it is difficult for the government to concentrate its economic efforts on the principal problem. It is our task to produce medium-and long-term social programs. For example, we may grant resources to Sao Paulo municipality to open a work front through the construction of water and sewage services or low income housing. The policy we inherited failed for not having foreseen this compensatory mechanism.

[O ESTADO] The government has expressed the goal of re-equipping the state apparatus, but it is expected that this will not represent an indiscriminate increase in expenditures. Is there a mechanism to prevent this waste?

[Britto] The public tends to consider that spending more is tantamount to squandering. It is curious how difficult it was for certain sectors, including the press, to discover that the fiscal adjustment bill sent to Congress had an article foreseeing the possibility of a state-owned company going bankrupt. This should be valid for all companies, even for the Federal Savings Bank.

[O ESTADO] It is difficult, however, to imagine, under the current legislation, a supplier interested in requesting that a state-owned company be declared bankrupt. Will the law be changed?

[Freire] Of course. It is necessary to change the law in order to make it clear that the Treasury, which, in general, is the largest creditor of state-owned companies, cannot be the most favored one in case a public company goes bankrupt. Other creditors, the suppliers should have preference.

[Britto] It is necessary to give Congress, special prosecutors, neighborhood associations, and creditor banks a chance to request that a state-owned company be declared bankrupt. One of the principles involves removing the self-indulgence that permits the Federal Savings Bank to owe what it currently owes without anything happening.

[O ESTADO] Can the privatization program involve such companies as Petrobras [Brazilian Petroleum Corporation]?

[Haddad] The Rio Doce Valley Company is our model. The state is in command in order to determine this sector's policy and mining, but the company can enter joint ventures or third-party deals. The private company that will purchase Embraer [Brazilian Aeronautics Company], for example, must commit itself to maintain the company's modernization program. These will be the limits imposed on the purchaser through conditional clauses.

[O ESTADO] What will the Brazilian Government champion at the IMF round of negotiations scheduled for next week?

[Haddad] We were given a problem in this area. Although they are very competent people, [former Economy] Minister Marcilio Marques Moreira and his assistants signed an agreement that they could not comply with. In June, the former economic team held a meeting and arrived at the conclusion that the program was leaking. A document, addressed to the presidency and baptized Collor Plan 3, was drawn up. This plan reportedly involved a number of drastic measures whose goal was to guarantee the fulfillment of the goals agreed upon with the IMF. Now we are the ones who must handle this problem, as some of these measures cannot be implemented.

[O ESTADO] What then can Brazil do?

[Haddad] We would like to have a more straightforward talk with the IMF. We will try to demonstrate that to sign unrealistic commitments is not our style. Is it, perhaps, that the IMF just wants another letter [of intent]?

[Freire] That will not be complied with.

[Haddad] We will speak with them very calmly. We are taking a document with medium-and long-term proposals because, since the Figueiredo administration, we have just implemented stabilization programs and have not drawn up, for example, a program to fight poverty.

## Chile

### Acting Minister on Defense, Military Policy

*PY3011190292 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 30 Nov 92*

[Text] Acting Defense Minister Enrique Krauss has said that the government of President Aylwin has always considered national defense and the military policy as functions of state that are independent of all contingencies. Krauss made this statement during a ceremony at which eight high-ranking officers were promoted to the rank of general, and were decorated by the president.

Krauss emphasized the contribution of the Armed Forces in countering the effects of natural disasters, their support for civil protection tasks, and their work as guarantors of tranquillity and order—cooperating with

the forces of order and security—in the various electoral contests in the democratic system.

[Begin Krauss recording] Consequently, and contrary to what has happened in recent periods of Chilean history, the Armed Forces are not isolated sectors or groups that have nothing to do with the social reality of which they are part, and to which they serve at all times and under all circumstances. As President Patricio Aylwin put it, the government—faithful to its essential mission of promoting national unity—has encouraged the armed institutions and civil society share the same values—like love for the fatherland, working for its wellbeing and greatness, respecting democratic principles and institutions, and strictly complying with the state of law. [end recording]

This ceremony, Krauss said, like some recent events that have been thoroughly covered, show that the attainment of the objectives of national unity, development in order and democracy, and freedom within the law, are cherished by the government, the Armed Forces, and the vast majority of civilians.

The ceremony was held at the O'Higgins Hall and was attended by Army Commander in Chief General Augusto Pinochet.

### Interest Confirmed in Free-Trade Accord With Venezuela

*PY3011212592 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1649 GMT 29 Nov 92*

[Text] Santiago, 29 Nov (EFE)—Chilean Government Secretary General Enrique Correa today confirmed that his government is interested in signing a free trade agreement with Venezuela. He thus denied rumors that Chile was reviewing its position in this respect.

Correa asserted that the agreement will be signed by the two countries by the end of April 1993 or the beginning of May. He pointed out that the government has a single opinion on that matter and that it favors signing the agreement.

Denying rumors that the Finance Ministry is about to review the policy on bilateral trade agreements with other Latin American countries, Correa said: "It is not true that there are disagreements on the issue."

According to rumors, the Finance Ministry believed that by signing this agreement with Venezuela as well as other agreements still being negotiated, it might complicate the negotiation of a similar agreement with the United States, which U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton has already commented favorably on.

Secretary Correa said that the government hopes to negotiate the most advantageous free trade agreement with both the new U.S. Government and Venezuela.

He explained that the technical terms of the agreement to be signed with Venezuela are defined. All that remains to be done is to present the text of the agreement to the Economic Relations Consulting Council to be analyzed. This council was created recently but its members, who have yet to be appointed, will be representatives of the public and private sectors.

Correa added that once the Economic Relations Consulting Council begins operating, he will ask it to put the agreement with Venezuela on the top of its agenda.

Consulted on the issue, Foreign Minister Silva Cimma said that rumors of disagreement over the topic are mere "speculation."

Originally, the free trade agreement with Venezuela was scheduled to be signed in December.

Negotiations began on this agreement 20 months ago. The negotiation has often retrogressed, particularly due to Venezuela's political crises over the last few months.

According to Chilean Foreign Ministry sources, another reason for the delay in signing the agreement is Venezuela's decision to include some 1,000 products in the exception list and some 300 others in the list of products over which customs fees will gradually stop being paid.

Chile included 150 products in the exception list and 200 in the list of products that will gradually stop paying customs fees.

Trade between Chile and Venezuela has totalled $200 million in 1991. Trade consisted basically in the export of Venezuelan oil and petrochemical products to Chile and of Chilean cellulose, fruit, paper, and wines to Venezuela.

### Envoy Confirms Asylum to Peruvian Entrepreneur

*PY0112122492 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 1 Dec 92*

[Text] Peruvian Ambassador to Chile Alfonso Rivero has confirmed that Chile will grant political asylum to entrepreneur Victor Polack. He explained, however, that Polack is still in Lima, awaiting safe-conduct to travel to Chile. Polack is charged with being linked to the group that attempted a coup to oust President Alberto Fujimori.

[Begin recording] [Rivero] The Chilean Embassy in Lima has informed the Peruvian Foreign Ministry that the Chilean Government has decided to grant political asylum to Mr. Victor Polack Merel. The Peruvian Foreign Ministry has received this notification, is studying it, and will answer at the right time.

[Unidentified reporter] What is the Peruvian Government position with respect to this decision by the Chilean Government?

[Rivero] Well, as I have already told you, the Chilean Embassy note has been received and we are studying it.

[Reporter] Does Peru respect the right of asylum?

[Rivero] Peru respects international treaties and agreements.

[Reporter] Is the Peruvian Government likely to request the extradition of this Peruvian entrepreneur in the future, after studying the situation?

[Rivero] That is a possibility in this type of case? [end recording]

In response to a question, the Peruvian Ambassador said he does not think this situation will affect relations with Chile. He confirmed that his country has agreed to grant political asylum to the military men who recently participated in the frustrated coup in Venezuela.

### Minister Outlines Position for Rio Group Meeting

*PY3011132892 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 30 Nov 92*

[Text] Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma has announced that at the upcoming Group of Rio meeting, Chile will attach special importance to the defense of democratic principles and to the preservation and promotion of human rights.

He is in Argentina preparing the agenda of President Patricio Aylwin. The meeting is expected to be attended by 11 chiefs of state of the continent.

Silva Cimma explained that one of his priority objectives is to promote economic and political ties among Latin American countries.

[Begin recording] The topics that Chile will mention deal with the preservation of the fundamental principles of Chilean foreign policy. Among such principles are the preservation of democracy and human rights. Internationally, the promotion of Latin American integration—which for us is a deep-seated principle—and the promotion of ties between our countries and other regions, especially North America, Europe, and the Pacific Asian region. [end recording]

Silva Cimma emphasized that in connection with Mercosur [Common Market of the South], Chile has stated that the obstacles posed by the subregional market have not yet been overcome.

At the sixth summit meeting of the Group of Rio, which will begin on 1 December, the presidents will inevitably debate the latest events in Venezuela. The meeting is expected to promote a modification of the OAS Charter under which membership of the OAS of countries in which the democratic process is discontinued will be automatically suspended.

The agenda also includes the economic integration process, the evolution of the situation in Peru and Haiti, and the election of Democrat Bill Clinton to the U.S. Presidency.

## Colombia

### Gaviria Issues 3 New Internal Disturbance Decrees

*PA3011235292 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 2300 GMT 30 Nov 92*

[Text] Before beginning his 25th trip abroad, President Cesar Gaviria held a Council of Ministers and signed new decrees against narcoguerrillas and their supporters. Here is a report by Raul Gutierrez on these measures and on the president's five-day trip:

[Begin recording] [Gutierrez] Expropriation of land, powers for municipal judges, and a larger budget for the public force form the new package of decrees approved by the Council of Ministers within the state of internal disturbance.

[Government Minister Humberto de la Calle] The first decree entails budget modifications of approximately 3.3 billion pesos.

[Gutierrez] Of this sum, 1 billion pesos will be for the DAS [Administrative Department of Security] and 400 million pesos will be for life insurance for policemen and soldiers. Another decree empowers municipal judges to undertake investigations wherever there are no agents of the prosecutor general of the nation.

[Prosecutor General Gustavo de Greiff] The decree is important for the rapid investigation of such crimes as kidnapping, extortion, terrorism, drug trafficking, and so forth.

[Gutierrez] With the third decree, all the land adjacent to mining and petroleum exploration or production areas can be declared special state reserves if they do not have owners. If they have owners, they can be expropriated with indemnification.

[Security adviser Ricardo Santamaria] This is basically aimed at preventing acts of terrorism from settlements close to mining and petroleum exploration areas in general. This is a measure that essentially will be directed by the board of directors of Incora [Colombian Agrarian Reform Institute].

[Gutierrez] After issuing these measures, President Gaviria left for Buenos Aires after receiving military honors at Narino Palace. He will be meeting in Buenos Aires with the presidents of the Rio Group to discuss the Latin American situation in the wake of the foiled coup d'etat in Venezuela.

[Gaviria] The Rio Group will end up expressing its unanimous support for democracy and the constitutional system in Venezuela.

[Gutierrez] After the Rio Group summit, Gaviria will make an official visit to Argentina on 3 and 4 December. [end recording]

## Decree on Protection for Judicial Officials Noted

*PA2711204792 Santa Fe de Bogota EL NUEVO SIGLO in Spanish 22 Nov 92 pp 8, 9*

[Decree No. 1873 issued by President Cesar Gaviria Trujillo in Santa Fe de Bogota on 20 November]

[Text] Decree No. 1873, whereby measures are dictated for the security and protection of public servants assigned to the judicial branch and the Attorney General's Office, and other provisions are issued.

Whereas:

In Decree No. 1793 of 8 November 1992, the national government declared a state of internal disturbance throughout the national territory, based on the following considerations, among others:

"In the past few weeks, the state of public order in the country, which had been disrupted for some time, worsened significantly as a result of terrorist actions by guerrilla organizations and organized crime;" "In addition to armed actions against the public forces, the guerrilla groups have intensified their strategy of attacking the civilian population, as well as production and service infrastructures, to undermine the citizens' solidarity with the authorities, weaken the country's economic organization, and obtain concessions and benefits of various kinds from public officials or private individuals (...);"

"A judicial official was recently murdered and threats have continued against members of the judicial branch, making it necessary to adopt immediate measures to guarantee their personal safety and to allow them to carry out their functions independently and safely;"

To establish the necessary conditions for prompt and appropriate justice to be administered, it is necessary to take extraordinary measures to provide officials and former officials of the judicial branch and the Attorney General's Office with all the security necessary for the normal exercise of their functions;

Exercising the powers established in Article 121 of the 1986 Constitution by Decree 1855 of 1986, the "Security Fund of the Judicial Branch" was created as a public entity attached to the Justice Ministry;

For the "Security Fund of the Judicial Branch" to fulfill its task of contributing to the protection and security of the aforementioned officials, it is necessary to make certain changes;

For the purposes noted in this decree it is necessary to create a system for security and protection and a specialized corps within the public forces; therefore,

The president of the Republic of Colombia, exercising the powers conferred upon him by Article 213 of the Constitution, and pursuant to the provisions of Decree No. 1793 of 1992, hereby decrees:

Article 1. A system of security, protection, and assistance to present and former officials of the judicial branch and the Attorney General's Office is hereby created to protect these officials from the risks to which they may be exposed as a result of the activities of organized crime and guerrilla groups.

In the opinion of the Security Fund Board of Directors, this system will provide special protection to present and former Justice Ministry personnel as required.

Article 2. The Judicial Branch Security Fund, henceforth to be called "Security Fund of the Judicial Branch and the Attorney General's Office," will help to provide adequate protection and assistance to present and former judicial branch and Attorney General's Office officials.

Article 3. The personal security of those officials, as well as the protection of judicial branch and Attorney General's Office installations, will be guaranteed by means of plans and programs adopted and implemented by decision of the Security Fund Board of Directors.

Article 4. The Board of Directors will adopt a special program for present and former officials who are at obvious risk of being attacked, or whose lives are in danger because of their current or former functions.

Said program will be guided by the following principles:

a. It will provide adequate protection, social assistance, and support, according to the circumstances, and in line with the Board's assessment.

b. The program will be extended to the spouse, permanent companion, or persons related to said officials and former officials up to the fourth degree of consanguinity, the second degree by marriage, or the first degree by law.

c. Documents of the Fund and the activities it conducts as part of the security system hereby established will be confidential.

d. When circumstances justify, the program will extend to a change of domicile within the country or abroad, including transportation and subsistence costs, for the period and under the conditions stipulated by the Board.

e. If a change of identity is required, the provisions of Decree No. 1834 of 1992 will apply.

Article 5. Following an evaluation of the different levels of risk, the Board of Directors will decide to admit beneficiaries to the security, protection, and assistance plans and programs.

Article 6. The Board of Directors will establish the conditions and obligations of the beneficiaries of the security, protection, and assistance plans and programs.

The security, protection, and assistance conditions may be suspended or terminated, based on the discretionary evaluation made the Board of Directors on the circumstances of risk. Guarantees and security measures will be

suspended or terminated for beneficiaries who violate the conditions and obligations established by the Board of Directors.

Article 7. The acquisition and allocation of the goods necessary for the security plans and programs will be made based on an evaluation of the levels of risk made by the Board of Directors.

Article 8. In order for the Fund to fulfill the objectives of the security system, its organization and functions will be subject to the following rules:

a. The Fund is to be headed and managed by a Board of Directors and a director.

b. The board of directors will be formed by :

—the justice minister, or the deputy justice minister, who will act as chairman;

—the High Council of the Judiciary president or vice president;

—the prosecutor general of the Republic or the deputy prosecutor;

—the Administrative Department of Security director, or the deputy director;

—the National Police general director, or the deputy director; and

—the presidential adviser for defense and national security.

The Board of Directors will adopt security, protection, and assistance procedures and regulations.

c. The Fund's director will be an official freely appointed and removed by the president. The director will adopt urgent and necessary measures as needed to prevent risks that arise whenever the Board of Directors is unable to meet to make the appropriate decision.

d. A technical committee formed by professionals knowledgeable in security matters will process the requests and submit the respective recommendations to the Board of Directors.

Article 9. The national budget will allocate the resources necessary to meet the expenses of the program mentioned in this decree in the Fund's budget. In addition, the Fund will receive the goods, money, properties, and other securities assigned to it by the National Drug Council, as well as the products and profits that stem from the operations it conducts.

The entities represented at the Board of Directors may reach agreements with the Fund to implement programs that fulfill the objectives of the security system established through this decree.

Article 10. The Justice Ministry and the Fund will coordinate with the state's security agencies additional and complementary programs for the security of the persons mentioned in this decree.

Article 11. The National Police will organize a specialized corps to protect officials and former officials of the judicial branch, the Attorney General's Office, and other entities as established by the national government against the risks of actions by organized crime and guerrilla groups.

The functioning of said corps will be financed with the resources of the Security Fund of the Judicial Branch, in addition to the amount allocated to it in the national budget.

Article 12. The national government will be responsible for the harm caused by the failure to implement the security plans and programs, whenever a serious fault is committed.

Article 13. Witnesses in investigations conducted by the Attorney General's Office regarding cases where current or former officials cooperated with or tolerated guerrilla groups and criminal organizations, or persons cooperated with such groups and organizations will receive the benefits contained in Decree 1834 of 1992.

Article 13. [number as published] Said decree will become effective on the date it is published and suspends any incompatible provisions. The decree will be in force for the duration of the state of internal disturbance, not precluding that the national government may extend it based on the terms contained in the third paragraph of Article 213 of the Constitution or that it may be adopted as permanent legislation.
Let it be published, announced, and enforced.
[Issued] Santa Fe de Bogota, 20 November 1992

### Government Issues Decree on Contractors

*PA2711225692 Santa Fe de Bogota EL NUEVO SIGLO in Spanish 22 Nov 92 p 10*

[Decree No. 1875 issued by President Cesar Gaviria Trujillo in Santa Fe de Bogota on 20 November]

[Text] The president of the republic, in exercising the powers vested in him by Article 213 of the Constitution, in accordance with Decree No. 1793 of 1992, has taken into consideration that Decree No. 1793 established the state of internal disturbance on the following grounds:

In the past few weeks public order in the country, which had been disturbed long ago, worsened significantly with the terrorist actions by the guerrilla organizations and organized crime.

In addition to the armed actions against the public force, the guerrilla groups have intensified their attacks on the civilian population and the production and services infrastructure to undermine the people's support for the government, weaken the country's economic organization, and obtain various concessions and profits from public officials or private citizens.

To finance their criminal activities, the guerrilla organizations have at their disposal huge amounts of money, obtained through various illegal means which, according to intelligence reports, are being managed by and channeled through finance institutions and other mechanisms.

In accordance with intelligence reports, the guerrilla activities are facilitated by organizations created to acquire goods and services that enable them to conduct their activities of disturbing public order.

In addition to intensifying military and police activities, it is necessary to meet the guerrillas' strategy with measures to ensure the people's support, cut off the flow of money which serves to finance the guerrilla activities, and prevent them from having resources available for their criminal activities.

In order to confront the delicate public order situation, taking into consideration its origin, nature, and scope, and to prevent this situation from escalating, it is necessary to take exceptional measures, which are not included in the regular duties of the police.

**Decrees:**

Article 1: There will be grounds to declare the expiration of any contract signed by a public enterprise when the contractor engages in any of the conduct stipulated in Articles 2 and 3 of this decree.

As it relates to the current article, public enterprises will be taken to mean the state, territorial enterprises, public establishments, the state industrial and commercial enterprises, as well as the companies subject to the regulations of said enterprises, regardless of the level to which the decentralized agencies may belong.

Article 2: The expiration referred to in Article 1 of the current decree can be declared when the contractor, on occasion of the contract, partakes in any of the following conducts:

1. To engage, tolerate, or omit anything by unjustifiably invoking or yielding to threats originating from organized criminal or guerrilla groups.

2. Receiving, providing, dispensing, investing, financing, transferring, storing, or safeguarding funds or assets originating from or destined for organized crime or guerrilla groups.

3. Collaborate or lend assistance to organized crime or to guerrilla groups.

4. Construct, hand over, lease, place at the disposition of, authorize or transfer ownership of any asset to be used in providing shelter to persons, or to be used as warehouse or storage of merchandise belonging to organized crime or to guerrilla groups.

5. Paralyze, suspend, or visibly lessen the observance of contractual agreements in response to instructions relayed by organized criminals, guerrilla groups or its members.

Paragraph: To the effect of what has been established in the current article, the contractor will be held responsible for the conduct of his agents or dependents when said contractor had previous knowledge of their conduct.

Article 3: The expiration of the contract will also be declared when the contractor or the person exercising legal representation fails to observe the obligation of denouncing punishable conduct executed by organized criminals or by guerrilla groups, the perpetration of which said contractor was aware of at the time of entering into the contract.

Article 4: The expiration announcement must be made by means of a resolution prompted by the contracting party by implementing the penal clause as well as the contractual fines, if there are any.

The notification of the expiration provision will be subject to what is established in the Administrative Disputes Code [Codigo Contencioso Administrativo].

Once the expiration provision has been determined, the contract will be terminated without compensation to the contractor.

In no case will the application of this clause be subject to conciliation or to arbitration.

Article 5: When the attorney general of the nation, or the prosecutor general of the nation, in the course of an investigation initiated as per their duties, establish the existence of conducts stipulated in Articles 2 and 3, they will request the competent authorities to declare the expiration of the contract based on the circumstances indicated by the aforementioned officials in their request.

Any official who does not declare the expiration of a contract within two days following the date the respective request has been received will bring about grounds to be charged with improper conduct.

Article 6: The contractor can proceed to terminate unilaterally any subcontracts he has entered into as a result of the contracts mentioned in Article 1 of this decree when it is established that the subcontractor is involved in any of the faults mentioned in Articles 2 and 3 of this statute.

Similarly, he must terminate the contracts when the contracting public office, the nation's prosecutor general [fiscal general de la nacion] or the nation's attorney general [procurador general de la nacion] request such termination because they have established that the faults already mentioned have been committed.

When, without any justification, the contractor fails to terminate the subcontract unilaterally or when he disregards the request to terminate it, made by the contracting public office, the prosecutor or the attorney general, the pertinent office will proceed to apply the fines stipulated in the contract, and if the case merits it, it will proceed to declare its expiration.

The unilateral termination mentioned in this decree, will not require any judicial ruling nor will it result in the payment of any compensation for damages.

Article 7: The clauses on expiration and unilateral termination, mentioned in the previous articles, are understood to be incorporated in all contracts and subcontracts being executed at the time this decree goes into effect, as well as those entered into after the date.

In all cases, in order to decree the expiration or unilateral termination foreseen in this decree, only events developed after this decree goes into effect will be taken into account.

Paragraph: The inclusion of the expiration clause referenced by this decree, in the private rights contracts entered into by public entities, will not modify the legal regime applicable to this type of contract, except with regard to the expiration.

Article 8: Those contractors whose contract is declared expired, will be unable to enter, themselves or through a third person, into contracts with entities referenced in Article 1 of this decree, in the manner established by Decree No. 222 of 1983.

Article 9: If the public servant, without good reason, fails to declare expiration, order the unilateral termination of subcontracts, or does not report irregularities to the proper authorities, this will constitute bad conduct and will be punished by removal from office.

The respective punishment will be applied in accordance with the procedure established in the legal norms and, in cases involving governors and/or mayors, in accordance with the procedures established in Decree No. 1811 of 1992.

Article 10: This decree goes into effect on the date of its promulgation, suspends the dispositions that may go against it, and it will remain in effect through the duration of the state of internal disturbance and the national government will have the right to extend it, in accordance with the dispositions established in the political Constitution.
Publish and fulfill this decree.

## Gaviria on Rio Group Presidential Summit Topics

*PA0112000192 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1630 GMT 30 Nov 92*

[Text] President Cesar Gaviria is traveling to Argentina at this time to participate in a summit of Latin American presidents. Before leaving, the president and his ministers adopted new measures within the state of internal disturbance. Here is a report by Monica Echeverry:

[Begin recording] [Echeverry] Before leaving for Buenos Aires, President Gaviria said that Peru's return to the Rio Group is not included in the presidential summit agenda. Gaviria said the issue is not being addressed by the 12 Latin American foreign ministers who are meeting in Buenos Aires to discuss the agenda of the summit that will end on 5 December.

[Gaviria] It is not yet clear whether Peru's possible return to the Rio Group will be discussed. This is a decision that must be adopted by consensus.

[Echeverry] President Gaviria said the Rio Group members will express solidarity with Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez who was the target of a coup attempt last week. Gaviria ruled out such a possibility in Colombia.

[Gaviria] I do not have any doubt that the Rio Group will end up expressing its unanimous support for democracy and the constitutional system in Venezuela.

[Echeverry] Regarding the situation of former Peruvian President Alan Garcia, Gaviria said he will respect Garcia's condition as a refugee in Colombia, but that his government is willing to study the charges presented by President Alberto Fujimori's government. [end recording]

## Costa Rican Security Minister on Protest Note

*PA2811010992 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 26 Nov 92*

[Telephone interview with Costa Rican Public Security Minister Luis Fishman by unidentified reporter—live]

[Text] [Reporter] We have contacted Costa Rican Public Security Minister Luis Fishman to talk about the rejection of a protest note sent by Colombia to Costa Rica, for violating the confidentiality of information exchanged between the two countries on the struggle against drugs. Minister Fishman revealed to the media 14 names of 20 companies that were listed by the Colombian Government as involved in money laundering activities. Colombia protested this violation of confidentiality and Costa Rica rejected the Colombian claim. Under what terms did the rejection occur, Minister Luis Fishman?

[Fishman] Good morning to you and all the Colombian listeners. First of all, we should establish something. I am not quite sure the Colombian ambassador had received her government's support when she issued the complaint. Despite the complaint filed against Costa Rica, our authorities continued to work very well with Colombian police and administrative authorities. Our police and judicial authorities feel gratitude toward the Colombian authorities who cooperated in everything they could. In fact, they said it was the first time authorities

from another country established contact with them to work together and try to stop this scourge, which affects Latin America and the whole world.

Second, the ambassador's complaint was based on a memorandum signed in March 1992 by the Costa Rican and Colombian foreign ministers. However, the memorandum refers to judicial information, to judicial confidentiality. In fact, the document said the Colombian side should be represented by the presidency secretariat, a dependence of the Colombian presidency, and the Costa Rican side should be represented by the Ministry of Justice. It established a series of provisions to request information. This case has nothing to do with that, because neither the Colombian Presidency Secretariat, nor the Costa Rican Justice Ministry participated, the prerequisites for requesting the information were not presented, and the Colombian authorities did not ask for the requisites to be fulfilled before they released the names.

All this stems from a report released by the Colombian media on 20 October, regarding money laundering between Colombia and Costa Rica....

[Reporter, interrupting] Is there such money laundering between Colombia and Costa Rica in accordance with the conclusions you have reached?

[Fishman, continuing] ....requested the list through the Joint Narcotics Intelligence Center [Centro de Inteligencia Conjunto Anti-Drogas] which I head and which coordinates police efforts in the struggle against drugs in our country.

[Reporter] When will the results of this investigation be known?

[Fishman] In approximately 15 days.

[Reporter] Do you believe, according to the information you have, that there is money laundering by Colombian enterprises in Costa Rica and Costa Rica itself?

[Fishman] We can set off from three basic points. First of all, there are Costa Rican enterprises working with Colombian enterprises in absolute good faith. Secondly, there may be some Colombian enterprises that have used the names of Costa Rican enterprises. Third, there could be enterprises in Costa Rica that may have had that kind of tie with Colombian enterprises.

[Reporter] This was Costa Rican Security Minister Luis Fishman making statements about joint investigations by the Costa Rican and Colombian Governments into alleged money laundering by enterprises of the two countries.

## New Self-Defense Group Supports Government

*PA3011131692 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1700 GMT 29 Nov 92*

[Text] According to a letter circulating in Congress, so-called self-defense groups are offering their military support to the government to fight the guerrillas.

A communique from the so-called Patriotic Movement for National Self-Defense [Movimiento Patriota de Autodefensa Nacional] was circulated in congress. In this document, the group expresses support for the government, as well as its decision to take up weapons to fight guerrillas in the country.

The document with the slogan: "Viva Colombia, God is ours" was received by several senators. It states that as self-defense groups of Casanare, the eastern plains, Arauca, Cundinamarca, Norte de Santander, and the Middle Magdalena region they will not permit leaders of the Communist Party and Patriotic Union to support the armed struggle.

To some this communique implies the reactivation of paramilitary groups.

[Begin Senator Hernan Motta recording] This communique from an alleged paramilitary group has been circulating in Congress. It announces dirty war measures. [end recording]

To others, like Senator Enrique Gomez Hurtado, a municipal police force is needed to fight armed groups.

[Begin Senator Gomez Hurtado recording] The fact that there are self-defense groups and that society fights criminals, must not alarm us. On the contrary, we must promote direct participation from society in the efforts for peace. [end recording]

The government cautioned it will not permit actions by outlaw groups.

[Begin Government Minister Humberto De la Calle recording, in progress]....the government continues to reject any paramilitary action aimed at serving those purposes and insists Colombian society and the state must take actions against subversion, but always within the law and without violating the Constitution. [end recording]

## Reservists Form Counterguerrilla Battalion

*PA3011234992 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1630 GMT 30 Nov 92*

[Excerpts] For the first time in Cali, a counterguerrilla battalion has been formed by reservists to combat subversion and drug trafficking. The new battalion, which will operate in the southwestern part of the country, is formed by 500 reservists who, after over two years of civilian life, have decided to rejoin the Army to combat subversion and drug trafficking. It is the first contingent

of professional soldiers formed in the country following the government's summons to reservists. [passage omitted]

All of the battalion's members are volunteers and, as of 30 November, they constitute the motorized Coyaima Counterguerrilla Battalion No. 28. The battalion will combat rebels in Putumayo, Cauca and Narino within the jurisdiction of the Army's 3d Division.

On 30 November the volunteers gathered at the Codaxi Battalion but at the end of the year they will be transferred to Putumayo.

[Begin unidentified officer recording] Our goal is to fight against subversive activities and any other phenomena that disturbs the order within the 3d Division's jurisdiction. [end recording]

### Car Bomb Explodes Near Envigado Jail

*PA3011041992 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1700 GMT 29 Nov 92*

[Text] A car bomb went off in Envigado, near Pablo Escobar's former jail. This is what was left of the car bomb that exploded on the road from Envigado to La Catedral Prison.

The car bomb, a Mazda taxi cab No. 323 that had been stolen, was abandoned in the El Salado area and was activated by remote control at 2300 [0300 GMT].

Although it was said that 50 kg of dynamite were used in the explosion, it seems that it was much less than that as the only damage caused was that of the car itself. There were no victims or property damage.

The metropolitan police and the Army are on a maximum alert and have been setting up mobile checkpoints in the search for the culprits.

## Ecuador

### Duran-Ballen Welcomes Congress Sessions Closure

*PA2811171492 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1200 GMT 25 Nov 92*

[Text] President Sixto Duran-Ballen stated he was pleased with the closure of the special congress sessions to judge the work of two ministers. Duran-Ballen said he endorses the decision adopted by the congress and considers the closure of the special period of sessions a political victory for him. He said the Social Christian Party members simply endorsed the decision and coincided with the ruling party's position. President Duran-Ballen said he approves and welcomes the closure of the special congress period of sessions.

### Duran-Ballen To Support Peru at Rio Group Meeting

*PA2911193692 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 2300 GMT 26 Nov 92*

[Text] Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Diego Paredes has reported that the Ecuadoran Government will support the democratic system in Peru and will reiterate this stand at the Rio Group, which will meet in Buenos Aires on 1 December. He also mentioned that President Sixto Duran-Ballen will participate in the meeting.

[Begin recording] [Paredes] President Duran-Ballen will participate in the Rio Group meeting to be held in Buenos Aires on 1 and 2 December. This is the first time the President will attend this meeting, which we regard as especially important because it will serve to discuss the most important subjects that concern our America. These subjects, which include strengthening democracy and foreign trade, will be debated, not only for the member countries to become more closely involved, but to demand fairer treatment in the international market. The area countries agree with Ecuador's stand of opening to international markets. This will be one of the points which both the Ecuadoran presidents and the other presidents in attendance will underline.

As for Ecuador's stand regarding Peru's reinstatement to the Rio Group, the elections held in Peru 22 November unequivocally indicate that the Peruvian president has dealt with two important subjects with a very clear mind and a very definite purpose. The first of these subjects is to provide Peru with the necessary constitutional scheme to confront and combat violence efficiently. The second one is to steer the country in the direction of democracy. I think the successful 22 November elections and the extraordinary backing of the people are proof of support for and trust in President Fujimori. Therefore, Ecuador will agree with and support the actions that the other presidents take at the Rio Group meeting. We will support Peru's reinstatement in the Rio Group when the time comes.

[Unidentified Reporter] Does the president plan to hold any special meetings in Buenos Aires?

[Paredes] The president will meet with all other heads of state to talk about aspects that deal with bilateral relations. [end recording]

### Ministry Claims No Involvment in Strike Clashes

*PA0112040392 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1100 GMT 30 Nov 92*

[Text] The Ecuadoran Defense Ministry has explained that it did not intervene in the conflicts that occurred in Lago Agrio in eastern Ecuador. A Defense Ministry communique maintained that the troops did not participate in the clash promoted by leaders of the strike, a strike that is to last indefinitely.

The source added that the confrontation occurred between the oil companies' security guards and the leaders of the strike. Seven protesters were wounded in the incident

### Minister Comments on Debt Renegotiation Plans

*PA0112042992 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1100 GMT 30 Nov 92*

[Text] The Ecuadoran Government is assigning approximately 30 percent of its budget to service the debt. Finance Minister Mario Rivadeneira told this station that this figure will be renegotiated with international creditors.

[Begin Rivadeneira recording] The debt with commercial banks must be renegotiated and we will try to do that within the next few weeks. We will begin the talks with the banks in December and we will be very staunch negotiators. [end recording]

Rivadeneira added that, in the next few months, the government will resume payment of the interest on the Ecuadoran foreign debt.

## Paraguay

### Rodriguez Installs New Armed Forces Chief of Staff

*PY3011182692 Asuncion RPC Television Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 30 Nov 92*

[Excerpt] A wave of speculation ended this morning when President Rodriguez installed Division General Mario Rodolfo Escobar Anzoategui as the new chief of the Armed Forces General Staff during a ceremony at the Armed Forces Headquarters.

Gen. Escobar replaces General Francisco Sanchez Gonzalez, who is currently facing charges in court. [passage omitted]

### Armed Forces Board Promotes, Retires Officers

*PY3011115492 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 29 Nov 92 p 51*

[Text] The Armed Forces Promotions Board met on 28 November and promoted six colonels to the rank of general. It also promoted National War College Commander Galo Escobar and Air Force Commander Jose Cespedes to the rank of division generals. It was also leaked that approximately 10 generals, some of whom are involved in corruption, have been retired.

The Promotions Board, presided over by General Andres Rodriguez, met at the Armed Forces General Headquarters from 0800 until 1000 on 28 November and at the time this newspaper went to the press was meeting again following an adjournment. An official communique is expected some time soon.

The following colonels were promoted to generals: Adalberto Fleitas, commander of the 4th Infantry Division; Juan Simon Paredes, commander of the 3d Infantry Division; Pedro Fernando Torres, commander of the 5th Infantry Division; Eligio Torres Heyn, commander of the 1st Infantry Division; Santiago Zaracho, commander of the 1st Cavalry Division; and Jose Falicisimo Segovia, commander of the 2d Cavalry Division.

The posts being held by these colonels required officers with the rank of brigade general.

Just two officers will be promoted to the rank of division general. They are National War College Commander Calo Longino Escobar and the Air Force Commander Jose Cespedes Zarza. It appears that the need to consider the retirement of certain generals made it necessary for the Promotions Board to meet in the afternoon.

Military sources told NOTICIAS that the retirement of the four military officers charged with corruption—Generals Humberto Garcete, Aladino Enciso, Emilio Osvaldo Balbuena and Francisco Sanchez Gonzalez—is definite.

It was also leaked that the Promotions Board will remove from active duty Colonel Guillermo Godoy, the former ANTELCO [National Telecommunications Administration] chief, who is charged with responsibility for the "phone tapping."

### Judge Investigates Alleged Toxic Waste

*PY2711203192 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 21 Nov 92 pp 4, 5*

[Excerpts] After his second inspection visit on 19 November to the Teniente Ochoa fort in the Chaco region, Judge Angel Barchini decided to open a case regarding the toxic waste found at the site, located 600 km from Asuncion.

The judge visited the site to verify the existence of buried drums that, according to the Public Health Ministry, used to contain insecticides used two years ago in the campaigns against the dengue and yellow fever mosquitoes. According to the health minister, only 75 empty drums were buried at the site.

Given the suspicions of the members of the Congressional Investigating Committee on Illegal Activities, Judge Barchini ordered the taking of samples of the liquid and paste substances oozing from the smashed drums so they can be analyzed in different independent laboratories.

Judge Barchini also appointed three chemists to analyze the samples obtained in the area.

The file states that the experts must analyze the water samples obtained from wells and streams a few meters away from Teniente Ochoa fort to verify whether or not the water is fit for human consumption.

Judge Barchini questioned Guido Paez, field operations chief of the Senepa [Malaria Eradication Service], who allegedly knows the date when the drums were buried.

Judge Barchini also sent a list of questions to Health Minister Cynthia Prieto so that she can inform court when and how the drums were buried, and whether there are other places in which drums with chemical products were buried.

The judge said he does not rule out the possibility that the same situation took place in Itagua Central Hospital.

"The Health Ministry must report the details of the case to court. It must say who authorized the measure, on what date, and the conditions in which the drums were buried," Barchini said.

The judge said that once he receives the answers from the Health Ministry, he will study whether penal or health laws were violated. "If a crime was committed, there will be punishment," he said.

"We cannot speak yet of radioactive waste, but these substances seem to be highly toxic," he added.

While inspecting the Teniente Ochoa fort area, delegation members observed the unearthing of seven drums. One of them had a label stating: Cythion Component Mercapto Supsionato 91 percent, while another stated Malathion.

By punching, smashing, and burying the 75 drums containing Malathion insecticide remains—which were found by the Congressional Investigating Committee on Illegal Activities—the Health Ministry intended to turn this waste into calcium phosphate, that is, fertilizer.

Senepa Director Eulize Sugasti explained in detail the origin and final destination of the insecticide that the Congressional Investigating Committee on Illegal Activities thinks is really toxic waste.

Sugasti said the drums found in the Teniente Ochoa fort area used to contain liquid Malathion that was used in the campaign against the dengue, yellow fever, and chagas disease mosquitoes. He said that other cartons and plastic bags that had been used to store powdered Malathion donated by the Brazilian Government also were transported to the area. [passage omitted]

"The Health Ministry guarantees that the waste is harmless," Sugasti said, adding that the Health Ministry can be subjected to any kind of congressional or judicial investigation to learn the operation's details.

He said that area in the Chaco region complied with Panamerican Health Organization requirements, and the technical specifications in the proceeding were completely well-executed.

Regarding the Senepa director's explanation, Senator Carlos Romero Pereira, member of the Congressional Investigating Committee on Illegal Activities, said Sugasti exaggerated in saying that people could live without any danger up to 1 meter from the place where the drums are buried. "The smell in the area is unbearable, and I have serious doubts about the nature of the waste," Romero Pereira said.

### Alleged Radioactive Material Found in Airport Dump

*PY2811013692 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 26 Nov 92 pp 8, 9*

[Text] Two cans similar to tins of peaches, but with the inscription "Commission for Atomic Energy of the Argentine Republic" were found this morning at the Silvio Pettirossi airport dump.

One can was empty and the other contained a substance that emitted a small quantity of radiation, according to a tester. The test was made by an expert from the airport.

The Workers and Employees Union of the General Directorate for Civilian Aeronautics filed the accusation with the Illegal Activities Committee.

Airport Director Lieutenant Colonel Porfirio Figari voiced surprise at the discovery, and said it could be "a joke in bad taste."

He stated that this type of canned substance intended for medical purposes was received from Argentina every week. He said the latest shipment arrived aboard a Varig airline plane on 22 November, and that 23.5 kg of the product was intended for the Social Security Institute and 18 kg for the Nuclear Diagnosis Center.

Driver Jose Acuna stated that many people remove the garbage in the dump, adding that a similar can was found in May but it was not given major importance.

Figari said the appropriate investigations will be conducted to determine why the cans were taken to the dump because it was said that they were seen near the airport cargo department yesterday. As this issue went to press, Atomic Energy Commission members, who were notified of the case, were standing by. Deputies Maria Jose Rolon and Francisco Jose de Vargas were at the scene and said they would wait for the experts' report.

[Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish on 27 November on page 11 reports that "engineer Sibar Caceres, the National Atomic Energy Commission (CNEA) chairman, said the cans of radioactive material found at the international airport's dump yesterday pose no danger. He said the cans' contents, which were brought into the country in 1985, soon lost their radioactivity.

According to Caceres, CNEA technicians confirmed that the materials pose no danger. The materials' characteristics are those of a solid substance known as "iodine 131 or technetium," which is used for the treatment of diseases. The last shipment arrived on 22 November."]

## Peru

### Foreign Ministry Issues Asylum Communique

*PA3011193592 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 30 Nov 92*

[Foreign Ministry Communique No. 61]

[Text] The Foreign Ministry informs:

1. The Peruvian Government has decided to grant asylum to 93 Venezuelan soldiers who arrived by air on Friday, 27 November. This decision takes into account Peru's respect for the basic principles of international law, particularly the right to asylum.

2. The Hercules airplane and the weapons these soldiers had will be returned to their country of origin, and this is being duly coordinated.
[Dated] Lima, 30 November 1992

### Army Destroys MRTA Camp; Armed Strike Announced

*PA3011174992 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1548 GMT 30 Nov 92*

[Text] Ayacucho, Peru, 30 Nov (EFE)—It was announced on 30 November that at least six people were killed on the evening of 29 November in skirmishes between security forces and the Shining Path. In addition, some 30 Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) terrorists lost their lives in other confrontations with the Army.

In Ayacucho, the Maoist Shining Path staged over 30 attacks using explosives on stores and other establishments that had not heeded the rebels' call for a suspension of activities on 22 November, when elections to the Constituent Congress were held.

Relatives of the two soldiers and four civilians who were killed say three of them were killed by the Army. The Shining Path announced another "armed strike"—a strike under threat of death or sabotage—for 3 and 4 December.

Damage caused by the attacks was minor. The radio station "Voz de Huamanga" was the most affected. The station is off the air.

The Shining Path guerrillas also attacked two garrisons and a police station without any significant success, according to police authorities in the capital of Ayucucho Department, the cradle of the Shining Path.

Meanwhile, at least 30 MRTA guerrillas died when security forces attacked one of their camps in the Chanchamayo region, a jungle area in Junin Department in the central Peruvian mountains, military sources told the media.

The terrorists were attacked by helicopter gunships, according to the report, which added that the destroyed camp was practically the first MRTA stronghold in the Junin jungle area.

In Huacho, Lima Department, the Shining Path killed two taxi drivers and injured another, apparently as an act of reprisal because the drivers worked on 18 and 19 November, when the subversives had scheduled one of their "armed strikes" for the port, which is located north of the Peruvian capital.

### Ex-Salvadoran, Nicaraguan 'Guerrillas' Train MRTA Forces

*PY2711225392 Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 13 Nov 92 p 2*

[Article by correspondent Eduardo Gonzalez]

[Excerpts] Tarapoto, 12 Nov—Former officers of the Salvadoran guerrilla organization Farabundo Marti [National Liberation Front—FMLN] and some Nicaraguan guerrillas are providing combat training and advisory services in military strategy to Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) subversive forces on the northeastern front.

This revelation, confirming suspicions harbored by the Peruvian Armed Forces' intelligence organizations, was confirmed during the interrogation of an MRTA leader captured in the Pampa Hermosa camp, which was attacked on 9 November by helicopter gunships and infantry troops specialized in jungle combat. [passage omitted]

A direct link between the MRTA and drug-trafficking organizations also was confirmed during a cleanup operation called the "Finishing Off Plan" ["Plan Remate"], carried out after combined shelling on 9 November involving helicopters and mortars fired by infantry forces against the subversives.

In fact, in the Pampa Hermosa camp, which was shelled on 9 November and occupies about 4 square kilometers, the Peruvian Army forces discovered various coca maceration pits. This means that moderate quantities of cocaine also were processed in the camp.

Thus far, there was only multiple evidence of links between the subversive group Shining Path (SL) and the drug-trafficking mafias. This is the first time that clear evidence of a link between the MRTA and drug-trafficking organizations has been discovered. According to very reliable sources, this evidence was confirmed through confessions by repentant subversives who have accepted the benefits of the "Repentance Law." The repentant subversives confirm the existence of a link between the mafias and the [subversive] leaderships, based on agreements of a commercial nature.

The sources pointed out that MRTA leaders charged drug traffickers between $5,000 and $10,000—

depending on the type of drug involved—to allow the landing of small airplanes from Colombia, the loading of drugs on them, and their return to that country. [passage omitted]

According to our sources, it was confirmed, through the confessions from MRTA subversives, that former Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) experts and former FMLN officers provided training in rural and urban guerrilla warfare in that camp—probably the most important one on the northeastern front.

## Chile Grants Asylum to Alleged Coup Participant

*PY3011014892 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0038 GMT 29 Nov 92*

[Text] Lima, 28 Nov (EFE)—The Peruvian Foreign Ministry reported on 28 November that Chile has granted political asylum to Jorge Victor Polack Merel, a Peruvian citizen who escaped after he was detained for his alleged involvement in the attempted coup d'etat of 13 November.

According to the Foreign Ministry communique, Polack Merel escaped from police on 19 November and asked for political asylum at the Chilean Embassy in Lima, which yesterday reported to the Peruvian Government that asylum had been granted.

The Peruvian Foreign Ministry's communique points out that the Chilean diplomatic mission has asked for safe conduct for Polack Merel and that the Peruvian Government "is assessing the petition."

According to Peruvian press reports, the Counterterrorism Directorate (Dincote) has established that Polack Merel did not have any responsibility in the foiled coup attempt by a group of retired military officers and civilians on 13 November.

Polack Merel, who befriended some policemen, convinced them to take him to his house, from which he escaped.

Two Dincote lieutenants and a Dincote policeman have been detained and indicted for allegedly being responsible for Polack Merel's escape.

Polack Merel is the second Peruvian citizen who has asked for asylum after the foiled coup d'etat of 13 November.

On 26 November, Peruvian entrepreneur Julio Vera Gutierrez, the owner of Andina de Television, Channel 9, who apparently was involved in the foiled coup, travelled to Costa Rica as a refugee after the Peruvian Government granted him safe conduct.

The entrepreneur had been seeking refuge for three days at the Costa Rican Embassy in Lima, where he was received after he alleged that he was the target of political harassment and his life would be in danger if he were detained due to his poor health.

Vera Gutierrez denied that he was involved in the attempted coup d'etat allegedly headed by retired General Jaime Salinas Sedi. When he was detained, the general was riding in an armored car loaned by the entrepreneur, who admitted having loaned it to the general. The entrepreneur also admitted that he had loaned communication equipment to the general, but said he did not have any idea of the communication equipment's purpose.

## Safe Conduct to Chile Granted

*PA0112015592 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 30 Nov 92*

[Text] We have here Official Communique No. 62 which reads: The Foreign Relations Ministry hereby announces the Peruvian Government has decided to grant safe conduct to Peruvian citizen Jorge Victor Polack Merel to allow him to leave the country. The Peruvian Government reserves the right to request the extradition of Mr. Polack in such case that the Peruvian judicial authorities should request said action.
[Issued] Lima, 30 November 1992.

This resolution, which reaffirms the presidents previous announcement, is in response to a request made by the Chilean Government.

## San Roman Issues Communique on Thwarted Coup

*PY2711200292 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 19 Nov 92 p A7*

[Text] Persistent contradictory rumors have circulated in the past few days that Maximo San Roman Caceres, the sworn-in constitutional president of the dissolved Congress of the Republic, was held incommunicado and under alleged house arrest.

A local magazine described him as the man who would have been president of the Republic if the military coup attempted early on 13 November succeeded.

San Roman yesterday decided to speak and issued the following communique:

In the wake of recent events, herewith, I address the country to state that:

1. I reaffirm my firm will and democratic position, and I demand the immediate reestablishment of the constitutional and democratic system.

2. The 13 November events reveal the serious contradictions generated by the 5 April coup d'etat, a fact that seriously harms Peru's integrity and image.

3. This is the right moment to recall that the professionalism and institutionality of the Armed Forces and police are a common patrimony that must not be harmed and much less used for personal or group projects. The fatherland's sacred interests are above everything.

4. The unilateral and fragmented management of the report on the events perpetrated at dawn on 13 November confuses Peruvians. Therefore, the institutions and persons involved in this event must quickly make a decision. This must be done out of respect for public and international opinion.

5. I call for the social and political organizations, the Armed Forces, the police, the church, and the entire Peruvian people to remain united in support of the firm proposal of achieving:

—Unity and reconciliation among Peruvians.

—Return to full democracy as soon as possible.

—Joint efforts to solve the serious problems affecting the country: terrorism, starvation, recession, unemployment, corruption, and drug trafficking.

6. I finally make known to the people that I am walking about freely, and that I am permanently aware of and have solidarity with Peruvians' problems.
Lima, 18 November 1992.
[Signed] Maximo San Roman Caceres, constitutional president of Peru.

### Alberto Borea Denies Salinas Role in Coup Plot

*PA3011230392 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 30 Nov 92*

[Telephone conversation with former Senate President Alberto Borea Villa by radio announcer Dennis Vargas—live]

[Text] [Vargas] Good evening, Dr. Borea Villa.

[Boreo] Good evening, Dennis. I had to record your program because I could not be here at 2000 [0100 GMT]. I must refute what the journalist Alejandro de Vero [who during the 300100 newscast mentioned Borea was involved in the coup attempt] said. First of all, the idea that I could have gotten in touch with someone in Washington in April is absurd, simply because I was not in Washington in April. This is the beginning of a number of inaccuracies in an attempt to get me involved with events prior to 13 November with the purpose of removing me from the defense of General Jaime Salinas. I was able to talk with Gen. Salinas on 24 November after I was held incommunicado for 11 days. I do not know what other (?stories) may have been fabricated at the National Intelligence Service from people they probably beat and then threatened. As it has been reported by many magazines, many persons have been tortured and then threatened into saying what citizen Montesinos, or any other person behind this hoax, wants them to say. This is indeed a negative aspect.

Gen. Salinas has refuted everything that has been said regarding an alleged assassination attempt. All who know Gen. Salinas—and they have been saying this over the radio and television—are familiar with his sense of honor and his ideas. Consequently, Fujimori claiming there was an attempt to assassinate him is absurd. It makes no sense at all. I wish to add this, too. Even if everything said by Fujimori was true—Gen. Salinas rejects the charges and should be given a chance to explain to the people, a chance that was indeed given to other people who have no right at all to speak in the name of the country [words indistinct]. The return to constitutionality is no crime. The criminal code, which President Fujimori himself enacted when he was still constitutional president of the Republic, stipulates that only the attempt at overthrowing a constitutional government is a crime. And Fujimori's is not a constitutional government.

The military officers who might have met.... [pauses). This was a very curious coup. Not a single pane of glass was broken and not even a piece of paper was torn. However, a coup was reported; not meetings of certain people according to their positions and who could have conducted any such operations because the conditions were not ripe. Had there been a so-called coup attempt, something would have happened. However, on 13 November, not a piece of paper was torn in the country. Consequently, what Fujimori asserts is completely false.

[Vargas] Dr. Borea....

[Borea, interrupting] Excuse me, Dennis. My struggle is absolutely political. Consequently, my role is to (?awaken) the people's consciences. I will not become afraid by Fujimori's bragging. Maybe he possesses all the force and a National Intelligence Service, which is questioned by military officers and civilians alike. Gen. Salinas himself pointed out the absurd report that a certain magazine published. He told me his struggle was not only constitutional, but aimed at correcting the ill-treatment of the Armed Forces, which are subordinated to the will of an individual foreign to the Armed Forces, an individual who in the past has not played precisely the best roles.

[Vargas] Right.

[Borea] Finally, dear Dennis, I would like to finish by telling you that I should have liked to have had the same length of time that Fujimori had to prepare all kinds of attacks against every type of front. I know this is the fight of David versus Goliath. I know, Dennis, that at this time I must look very small in the presence of all the state's show of power. Yet I want to point out something. I know truth and reason are on my side. If they think they will be able to remove me, they are wrong. I will always struggle for democracy in Peru. I warn my country that what we are beginning to experience will be the beginning of a dictatorship if we do not stop Fujimori's outrages in time. If we do not, then the weeping and the gnashing of teeth will come, as the Gospel says.

[Vargas] Just one question, Dr. Borea, and I would appreciate a short answer. It has been said you have been summoned to appear at the Military Court on 2 December. Will you testify on this matter?

[Borea] I will and I expect to quote Article 498 of the Military Code, which authorizes the counsel for the defense to withhold any information given to him by his client. This is what happened with Gen Salinas. The military who acted in this way, if it is true that they met with this purpose [words indistinct] in mind, simply acted according to the Constitution and the law. As former president Belaunde has said, Gen. Salinas should not be held in prison a single day and he should not even be arraigned, because there is no legal basis for this. I invite anyone to debate publicly on your program about this. I am sure that reason can prevail over any difficult situation.

### Gen Accuses Coup Commander of Drug Trade Charges

*PY2811011292 Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 17 Nov 92 p 2*

[Article by Francisco Reyes]

[Excerpt] Army Commander Marco Zarate Rotta, an officer who, according to a government report, was actively involved in the foiled coup d'etat against President Alberto Fujimori, was accused by General Eduardo Bellido Mora, the chief of the Huallaga politico-military command, of being involved in the illegal drug trade.

Zarate Rotta, better known as "Blanco," served as politico-military chief of the Countersubversive Base headquartered in the city of Uchiza throughout 1991.

Based on his activities in the Upper Huallaga, Zarate Rotta was promoted from major to commander.

In Uchiza, Zarate Rotta, according to the evidence supplied by the Huallaga Front, received between $8,000 and $15,000 from local drug traffickers for every drug shipment leaving the local municipal airport, a fee described locally as an "airport fee."

The same document notes that no less than Uchiza Mayor Demetrio Diaz Guevara was the middleman between the Uchiza mafia and the Countersubversive Base military.

Zarate Rotta's commitment to local drug traffickers reached incredible heights.

In February 1991, he and Diaz Guevara demanded the drug seized by the National Police for drug traffickers in Uchiza, claiming that it was "the people's patrimony."

Antidrug forces and DEA agents assigned to the Santa Lucia Antinarcotics Base witnessed this incident.

In March 1991, LA REPUBLICA published a thorough report on the "contributions" the drug traffickers distributed among the various powers established in Uchiza.

Besides the military, the drug traffickers also delivered a bag of dollars earmarked for the Uchiza mayor, the governor, and the Shining Path. All of them ate from the same plate. The flights greatly decreased in the zone after the Peruvian Air Force started to patrol Uchiza's air space.

The charges filed by Bellido Mora against the Army officers in September also affects Mayors Marco Landers Moscol, better known in Uchiza as Cano; Alejandro Munante Salazar, aka Jack; and Roberto Zarate Aguilar, aka Murdoch. [passage omitted]

### Judge To Request Extradition of Former President

*PA2911205192 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 28 Nov 92*

[Text] Former president Alan Garcia on 27 November was declared a reo absente [absent defendant] awaiting trial for illicit enrichment.

[Begin Judge Carlos Hermoza Moya recording] Today, I received all the legal documents on the summons issued by the Colombian General Prosecutor's Office regarding a note sent to Mr. Alan Garcia. Since all the procedural requirements have been met, my office has issued the appropriate statement, declaring Mr. Garcia a reo absente, ordering his arrest, and appointing Julio Urquizo to defend him. [end recording]

Carlos Hermoza Moya's decision means a request is to be filed at the Foreign Ministry for the extradition of Garcia, since he was declared a reo absente after he refused to come to Peru to testify. This happens 22 days after the summons for Garcia was processed to face the counts of illicit enrichment in purchasing Mirage airplanes, placing part of our reserves in the Panamanian branch of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International, and holding bank accounts abroad. The trial must end on 22 January, although it may run into a new stumbling block. The Colombian Government may reject the extradition request.

[Begin Hermoza recording] Once the files are sent to Colombia, it will be up to Colombian justice and the government to decide to grant or reject our request. [end recording]

### Life Imprisonment Decreed for Terrorism Apologists

*PA2811000192 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 27 Nov 92*

[Excerpt] On 26 November, the government finally enacted a decree classifying the apology of terrorism by professors at secondary schools as high treason and stipulating for the crime the maximum sentence: life imprisonment. According to the decree, the accused will be tried by a military court and forbidden to teach. Asked by this station, professors and parents expressed their satisfaction over the measure.

Parents and school authorities have again and again reported the infiltration of professors who make apologies for terrorism. As a result of the lack of an appropriate law, so far it has been impossible to penalize the perpetrators of these actions, which take place particularly in rural schools, where some so-called teachers indoctrinate children for the Shining Path.

To prevent serious consequences for the education of thousands of children, the government has decided to punish those who make an apology of terrorism by classifying the crime as high treason. This measure will prevent the minds of children from being poisoned, President Alberto Fujimori said.

[Begin recording] [Fujimori] As it had been announced, the teachers who, taking advantage of their position in the classroom, instill erroneous ideas in the children's minds will be severely punished with the maximum sentence, life imprisonment.

[Unidentified reporter] Why was the sentence extended from 20 years to life?

[Fujimori] I think the crime is extremely serious and therefore should carry a proportionately severe sentence, maximum penalty. There is also a minimum sentence, according to the circumstances. [end recording]

The decree released today stipulates that the apology of crime, made by teachers or professors at primary and secondary schools, will be punished with life imprisonment, automatically banning the guilty of this crime from teaching. It also has said that the trial will be conducted by a military court, as happened to Shining Path leader Abimael Guzman. [passage omitted]

### Decree Dissolves Federation of Bar Associations

*PA2911230892 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 28 Nov 92*

[Text] The publication in the official gazette of decree law No. 25-8-92 was a bucket of cold water for more than 60,000 lawyers in the country. Without much explanation, the decree established the dissolution of the National Federation of Bar Associations and the separation from their respective posts of its main leaders throughout the country.

Lawyers, who will no longer have a national association, channeled their professional activities through 20 bar associations created in each judicial district. Since 1948, in the organizational chart the federation was above the bar associations. Effective today, however, lawyers have no federation to back them. Instead, there will be a board of deans, which will be supported by the General Assembly comprised of all deans at the national level. There will also be a board of directors, comprised of members elected by the General Assembly every two years.

The decree law was published along with another decree formalizing the creation of a commission in charge of dissolving the federation. The commission will include one delegate from the Justice Ministry, one from the Bar Association, and one from the Comptroller General's Office.

Here is a statement by Demetrio Lopez, president of the Bar Association:

[Begin recording] We will send a letter to the members of the Constituent Assembly, and also to international organizations, particularly the Ibero-American Association of Lawyers which represents all bar associations at the international level and which has its main office in Madrid. It is possible that the organization will conduct efforts on our behalf to demand that the government annul legislative [as heard] decree No. 25873 [number as heard) dissolving the National Federation of Bar Associations. [end recording]

### $100 Million Loan Agreement Signed With Japan

*PA3011014892 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 25 Nov 92*

[Text] In a ceremony at the Government Palace, the Peruvian Government signed a $100 million loan agreement with the Japanese Government.

The $100 million, plus a previous loan for $220 million granted by the Inter-American Development Bank [IDB], will be used in the financial system adjustment program that includes purchasing the portfolios of the banks and returning money to the bank customers whose funds were deposited in the savings and loans mutual banks that went bankrupt. The $100 million will be delivered in three installments of $50 million for the first one, followed by two more of $25 million each. Peru will have 30 years to it pay back at an annual interest rate of 3 percent.

Another loan agreement for $2.4 million was also signed. These funds will be used to repair and build schools. After the loan agreements were signed, the president invited the visitors to view the changing of the guard ceremony.

Meanwhile, Economy and Finance Minister Carlos Bolona explained the loan agreement with Japan, while announcing that shortly he will travel to the countries that are members of the Peru Support Group.

[Begin recording] [Bolona] This $100 million is readily available to Peru, because we had already reformed the financial system. We have been working on that reform with our own money, and therefore, these funds will be used for social expenses or other expenses.

[Unidentified reporter] How much does that loan cover?

[Bolona] The loan covers $100 million, a 3 percent interest rate, and a very long grace period.

[Reporter] [question indistinct]

[Bolona] I think we must look into the IDB loan, and then sign other IDB loans.

[Reporter] Could you give us an estimate of that?

[Bolona] Approximately $200 million to $300 million.

[Reporter] What agreement has been reached with the commercial bank?

[Bolona] The committee of the commercial banks, which includes 12 major banks representing several smaller banks, on 27 November decided to drop the legal cases. That is important, as it shows they had confidence even prior to 22 November. From there, we will then negotiate with them in February to see how we can solve the debt problem.

[Reporter] Will you go on a tour to take this new economic image of the country abroad?

[Bolona] Several cabinet members will go on various tours to meet with support groups, the Paris Club, and others.

[Reporter] Which countries will you visit?

[Bolona] We will probably have to go on an extensive tour as we did in 1991, when we visited 10 countries in seven days, and we managed to obtain a support group. We will probably have to do that in January 1993. [end recording]

### Trade Agreement Signed With Ecuador

*PY2711145192 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 17 Nov 92 p A16*

[Text] After waiting for a month, Peru and Ecuador have drawn a joint list of 500 products which will cease to incur trade tariffs between the two countries. The agreement was signed on 14 November by the Industry and Commerce Ministers of Ecuador and Peru, Mauricio Pinto and Jorge Camet, respectively. EXPRESO yesterday learned unofficially of the terms of the agreement.

The list includes products like garlic, fruit juices, wines, minerals, chrome sulfate, detergents, and electronic products. Industry and Commerce Ministry sources reported that $30 million worth of these products were traded per year.

Oil is not included in the list because this product has its own market behavior, as once stated by Liliana Canale, International Negotiations and Integration vice minister. Peru currently buys $116 million worth of oil and oil byproducts per year from Ecuador

Trade between Peru and Ecuador has not been large. Last year, for example, Ecuador exported to Peru $27 million worth of goods, while Peru exported $33 million worth of goods to Ecuador.

For the time being, no date has been established for the implementation of this agreement because everything depends on some final administrative proceedings, including the official instructions to the customs offices of the two countries so that they may adopt the pertaining measures.

Ecuadoran exports to Peru are currently at a standstill because they must pay trade tariffs ranging from 15 to 25 percent under Peruvian law.

The two countries delayed about a year the signing of the agreement because Ecuador was waiting to reach agreements with the larger members of the Andean Group, like Colombia and Venezuela.

With the signing of the agreement with Ecuador, Peru concludes all the trade agreements it had pending with four members of the Andean Group following its temporary withdrawal from the group. In the one free trade agreement signed was with Bolivia, however, it was decided that some products (oils) will pay a minimum tariff.

When it separated from the Andean Group, Peru had to establish import tariffs on all the Andean products that previously did not pay tariffs. This measure affected both imports and those Peruvian exporters who had found a stable market in Colombia, Bolivia, Ecuador, and Venezuela.

Businessmen from all Andean countries have played an important role in the agreements signed with Peru, but it was the Peruvian businessmen who drew up the list of products that should not pay import tariffs.

### Rio Group Meeting To Discuss Peru's Reintegration

*PY2611124892 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2051 GMT 25 Nov 92*

[Text] Montevideo, 25 Nov (EFE)—Diplomatic spokesmen announced today that one of the items in the agenda of the Rio Group presidential "summit" that will meet in Buenos Aires between 30 November and 2 December will be the possible reintegration of Peru to the group.

"One of the basic requirements to be a Rio Group member is the full implementation of democracy. The election for the Democratic Constituent Congress in Peru on 29 November could open the group's doors again," the spokesmen said.

Peru was left out of the Rio Group, made up of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Venezuela, after President Alberto Fujimori's "self-inflicted coup" in April of this year.

The evolution of the Uruguay Round of GATT, and the recent agreement between the EC and the United States will also be evaluated.

The so-called Torricelli Law, which was approved by the U.S. Congress and which expands the trade embargo against Cuba that has been in force for 3 decades and has been rejected by several Latin American governments, will also be discussed.

The Uruguyan delegation that will participate in the meeting will be headed by President Luis Alberto Lacalle and Foreign Minister Hector Gros Espiell, who acted as an OAS observer in the Peruvian elections.

Juan Enrique Fisher, the Foreign Ministry's director for political affairs; Adolfo Dias Estape, ambassador to Argentina; and Sergio Abreu, senator for the governing National Party, are also included in the delegation.

Caribbean and Central American countries will also participate as special guests at the Buenos Aires meeting.

## Uruguay

### Labor Strikes Continue, Economic Policy Threatened

*PY2411191692 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0803 GMT 24 Nov 92*

[By Alberto Pepe Leira]

[Text] Montevideo, 24 Nov (EFE)—The growing conflict in the Uruguayan labor unions is affecting the economic policy of President Luis Alberto Lacalle's administration, 19 days before the referendum is held on privatization of public companies.

The neoliberal economic program and the fiscal and salary adjustments to control the high inflation rate have fueled labor union pressure on the government to the point that different labor unions obtain wage increases through force.

A recent police strike paralyzed police services for four days, public hospital workers are pressing for their demands, and teachers are warning they will not begin the 1993 school term if they are not given a 100 percent wage increase.

The police and military who were denied an increase in the annual budget law approved last October, finally obtained considerable wage increases.

As soon as Armed Forces personal obtained their increase, judicial branch employees obtained wage increases of up to 30 percent.

The demands of the public services attended by private companies must be added to those of the other public employees.

Transportation employees today are in their second and last day of a strike.

There have not been urban transportation services since 0000 (0200 GMT) on 23 November in Montevideo, where half of Uruguay's 3 million population lives.

Only one of five bus companies worked for 12 hours yesterday, with half of the bus fleet it normally uses, and the buses were driven by their owners or high-level employees. A similar emergency bus service is scheduled for today.

Bus services in the interior were restricted by half in several cities.

The bus drivers' strike is due to the government's refusal to accept a 19.45 percent wage increase agreed upon by workers and businessmen.

The government, which is the only group that can authorize bus fare increases because that they are public services, approved only a 13 percent increase.

The government has established a 35 percent limit for wage increases for the next 12 months with the purpose of controlling inflation, which reached 51.30 percent between January and October 1992, and 63.32 percent in the past 12 months.

The transportation workers are not the only ones to protest this 35 percent limit.

Public hospitals began a 56-hour strike at 0000 (0200 GMT) today, given that the public health systems stopped all activities.

Doctors in the interior of the country today stopped working for 24 hours. Taxi drivers and water and sewage services employees announced a strike for 25 November.

The Interunion Workers Plenum - National Workers Convention, the main Uruguayan labor organization, has decided to organize a mobilization in support of the abolishment of the privatization law in the referendum scheduled for next 13 December.

The opposition thinks that the abolishment of the law would represent a slap against the government and its neoliberal policy.

According to polls, 42 percent of the citizens support abolishing the law, while 36 percent are undecided.

The government thinks that the privatization law is necessary to attract foreign capital and to use investments in increasing the salaries of the public employees and the pensions of retired workers, as well as to increase the construction of low income housing and the water and sewage infrastructure.

### 'High-Ranking Navy Source' on Salary, Controversy

*PY2511174892 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 23 Nov 92 p 28*

[Article by Juan Rafael Guell, special correspondent in Montevideo—quotation marks as received]

[Text] Montevideo, 22 Nov—"Navy personnel have felt deeply unhappy about the permanent presence of Vice Admiral James Coates as Navy Commander ever since he labeled as mercenaries all uniformed men who dared express their concern over the low salaries they were receiving," a high-ranking Navy source, who did not want to be identified, has told CLARIN.

The source added that the men are not only displeased with Coates, but also with rear admirals who "preferred to remain comfortably in their posts instead of discussing the Navy situation with the commander."

Among those rear admirals, he mentioned the fleet commander, the services director general, and the naval training director, who "could have told their subordinates that Vice Admiral Coates' statement did not reflect their feelings, but did not do so."

The source said that Coates, as opposed to his Army and Air Force counterparts, felt compelled to make this statement because of his close friendship with President Luis Alberto Lacalle.

"Coates has been Lacalle's personal friend for years. The vice admiral's wife, Marta de Fuentes, is Lacalle's secretary. When Lacalle came to power he promoted Coates to rear admiral, despite the fact that Coates was 13th in seniority among Navy captains. On the same day Coates was appointed Navy commander, which made him vice admiral despite the fact there were five other rear admirals with three to five years of seniority in their posts. Only one of those rear admirals, Ramon Robatto, the one with the greatest seniority, requested his retirement."

The Army's reaction to the harsh statements of Vice Admiral Coates did not take long. Coates was expelled from the Military Center [Centro Militar] and declared persona non grata by the Armed Forces Retired Officers Center. The source said that calling the men mercenaries was the latest episode in a chain of events that has been dragging along for some time.

What set the crisis off was a document issued by the Military Center which, beside noting the critical economic situation of the Armed Forces, also demanded the resignation of Defense Minister Mariano Brito, who is a civilian. Some people thought this would demand a political solution. The Naval Club, which groups Navy officers, also requested a wage increase, but without naming the minister. "It was then that Coates ordered all Navy officer members of the Military Center to abstain from participating in its assemblies," the source said.

As for the Armed Forces salary situation, the source said that in the case of the Navy "a midshipman does not even earn $300 per month.

The situation is worse for a ship-of-the-line ensign, who earns $400 but is normally married, with one or two children. Basic staples for a regular family cost $700. A corvette captain earns $450 per month, and a ship-of-the-line captain, the highest rank before rear admiral, earns $600."

The source told CLARIN that this salary situation causes many officers to leave the Navy. "There remain increasingly fewer officers. Once the officer candidates graduate from the Navy School as electronics or mechanical experts, they leave for the private sector where they can obtain higher salaries. The fishing industry, for example, attracts many officers who work as fishing ship captains. This means that funds are spent on people who afterwards leave the Navy and deplete it of the necessary human resources."

### Military Club Assembly Issues Declaration

*PY2711025792 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0156 GMT 25 Nov 92*

[Text] Montevideo, 24 Nov (EFE)—It was reported on 24 November that a group of Military Club members criticized the attitude of Uruguayan President Luis Alberto Lacalle's administration toward the salaries of Armed Forces personnel and called the increases that were recently granted to police officers "insufficient."

Approximately 300 officers who belong to the club attended a six-hour meeting that began in the evening of 23 November, although only 96 of them voted for a declaration that expressed dissatisfaction. In calling for better salaries the declaration states that "the administration has not fully realized how distressing the current situation is and the consequences it may have."

In their declaration the Military Club members rejected the law on salary increases for retired military officers that Congress approved last week because it was "a gift" the Armed Forces had not asked for.

Soldiers, especially retired ones, have submitted several petitions to the administration, which satisfied them only partially.

Last week the administration granted salary increases and other benefits to police personnel in the wake of a four-day strike. The legislature extended these increases and benefits to Armed Forces members as well.

### Foreign Minister Replaced, Other Changes Noted

*PY2611141792 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 0830 GMT 26 Nov 92*

[Text] National [Blanco] Party Senator Sergio Abreu will be the future foreign relations minister, replacing Hector Gros Espiell, who will become Uruguayan ambassador to France.

The morning newspaper EL OBSERVADOR reported that the interior and defense ministers will also be replaced during the second half of December or, at the latest, in January.

Abreu, elected senator in 1989 for the Renewal and Victory Movement headed by Vice President Gonzalo Aguirre, is a Latin American Integration Association, ALADI, official. Abreu is a member of the Senate International Affairs Committee. He was appointed as member of the Uruguayan delegation that will participate in the annual meeting of presidents of the so-called Rio Group to be held in Buenos Aires early next week. The latter appointment and Abreu's recent visit to the United States, before the elections held in that country to meet—as Uruguayan Government representative—with President-elect Bill Clinton's team of advisers was interpreted by the sources as a clear signal that he will replace Gros Espiell.

It is also appropriate to point out that persistent rumors have been circulating during the past few hours that current Tourism Minister Jose Villar would leave the Tourism Ministry. A Colorado and Battleist Union source reported that Tacuarembo Pachecoism [Pachequismo] leader Jaime Montaner has been mentioned as Villar's possible replacement. Nevertheless, this possibility was reportedly ruled out due to the political commitments of his daughter, Marta Montaner, who, along with Battleist Forum leader (?Danilo) Sanguinetti, is running for Tacuarembo mayor representing the Colorado and Battleist Union.

## Venezuela

### Perez Views Damage Following Coup Attempt

*PA3011170592 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1550 GMT 30 Nov 92*

[Text] Following the abortive coup of 27 November, normalcy is returning to Caracas and the rest of the country. Buses and subways are running, although subways are only running from 0700 to 1900. Banks are again offering full service through their nationwide office networks. Shops are also open for business. President Carlos Andres Perez began his day by touring the Honor Guard Regiment building. He voiced sadness and outrage upon seeing the damage vented on the building and the young Venezuelans serving there:

[Begin Perez recording] They used incendiary bombs to enter the barracks, which were totally destroyed. The mattresses and beds were destroyed. They used incendiary bombs and rockets to launch their attack on the rest of the installations. Other areas were hit by bombs weighing 100 kg. This shows what could have happened but fortunately did not thanks to the courage of our Armed Forces and the determination with which the Presidential Palace faced this madness. There is no justification for this madness and history will condemn it in the harshest terms. [end recording]

### 'Might' Not Travel to Argentina

*PA3011002092 San Cristobal Ecos del Torbe in Spanish 2340 GMT 29 Nov 92*

[Text] Caracas—President Carlos Andres Perez today announced that he might suspend his scheduled trip to Argentina in view of the country's recent incidents. My people might not like it, Perez said at Miraflores Palace after a ceremony in which he received a document on the defense of freedom and democracy from a group of Venezuelans. This group included politicians, members of the business sector, retired officers, professionals, and members of associations of retirees, as well as other organizations.

Perez conceded that there is social discontent just as in other Latin American nations as a result of adjustment measures that are being implemented to recover the economies.

### Posthumously Honors Fallen Guardsmen

*PA2911020592 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0047 GMT 29 Nov 92*

[Text] President Carlos Andres Perez posthumously promoted and bestowed the Armed Forces Cross of Cooperation on the National Guard officer and policemen who on 27 November gave their lives defending Venezuelan democracy.

President Perez expressed profound grief over the deaths of Lieutenant Jose Luis Flores Pina, the distinguished (Obette Robles Cruz), Guardsmen Joel Zambrano Viloria, Jose Gregorio Rojas Guillen, Danis Rondon Merchand, and Edgar Orlando Velazco Zambrano. Honor Guardsman Corporal First Class Miguel Angel Rangel, and Distinguished Honor Guard Pablo Emilio Machado.

The president stressed this is the time to forget hatred and vengeance and to reflect because Venezuelan laws and justice, though imperfect, are the only path through which the Venezuelan people will achieve their goals and desires.

[Begin Perez recording] This is not the time to encourage vengeance or level threats, let alone curses. This is the time to urge all of my compatriots to reflect on the uselessness and the evil of violence. Violence will never bear fruit for anything or anyone. [end recording]

### Electoral Council Head Confirms 6 Dec Elections

*PA3011003092 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2331 GMT 29 Nov 92*

[Statement by Isidro Morales Paul, president of the Supreme Electoral Council, from the council's headquarters in Caracas—live]

[Text] Venezuelan voters: Following the events that took place on 27 November when again there was an attempt

to destroy our political system—that is, our democracy—we are hereby addressing you to reiterate that the 6 December elections will take place as scheduled.

The 600,000 Venezuelans who will be poll officials, electoral board members, supervisors, and overseers are being appointed and trained. The electoral material is being distributed through the established channels in the states. The Armed Forces are enforcing the Republic Plan and have under custody all of the material that will be used on election day.

On Thursday, 3 December, the poll officials will be installed and they must make an inventory of the material. The Supreme Electoral Council has decided to extend the campaign period by 24 hours. Therefore, electoral propaganda may be used until 2400 on 4 December [0400 GMT, 5 December].

The Executive Branch has notified us that the candidates for governors, mayors, council members, and parish board members will receive guarantees to carry out their electoral campaign activities. Therefore, the Armed Forces as well as the police and security corps must implement this measure.

We also announce to the media that as of 1800 on Sunday, 6 December, they will be able to announce any electoral results they might obtain. We have made this decision to prevent any premature announcements of electoral results from influencing voters at polls that have not yet closed and thus harm the voters' freedom.

The Venezuelan people and Armed Forces on 27 November ratified that democracy is the best option we have, and that not voting means leaving Venezuela alone, allowing a minority to decide for the vast majority of the nation.

Thank you, Venezuelans.

## DISIP Arrests Leftist Opposition Leaders

*PA2911231992 Paris AFP in Spanish 2240 GMT 29 Nov 92*

[Text] Caracas, 29 Nov (AFP)—According to newspaper reports, the Directorate of Intelligence and Prevention Services (DISIP) arrested retired Army General Alberto Miller Rojas and columnist Domingo Alberto Rangel on 29 November. Both are well-known leftist opponents of President Carlos Andres Perez, a social democrat.

In addition, the Army and the DISIP raided university centers in the cities of Maracay and Valencia, 70 and 100 km west of Caracas, where according to official reports rifles and ammunition were confiscated.

Since the military uprising on 4 February, Miller Rojas—an expert in geopolitical affairs—wrote in different newspaper columns that Perez should be removed from his post as a solution to the political crisis in the country and to safeguard the institutionality of the Armed Forces.

Domingo Alberto Rangel, an economist and former university professor, had also been sharply critical of Perez in the last few months.

The Perez government has stated that the unsuccessful military coup on 27 November was planned by sectors within the Armed Forces and the ultra leftist groups Third Path and the Red Banner Military Front, the latter being the only guerrilla group of the 1960's that did not join the peace efforts.

Gabriel Puerta Aponte, the founder of the Red Banner Military Front, was shot to death by security forces on 25 November during a guerrilla camp raid in the eastern part of the country, according to official statements by Defense Minister Ivan Dario Jimenez Sanchez.

## Minister Confirms Peru Granted Asylum to Officers

*PA0112014192 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 30 Nov 92*

[Text] Venezuelan Foreign Minister Fernando Ochoa Antich confirmed on 30 November that the Peruvian Government granted political asylum to the military officers who fled to that country following the 27 November coup attempt.

Foreign Minister Ochoa Antich said the Venezuelan Government asked the Peruvian Government to consider the anguish experienced by the Venezuelan people in this coup attempt so that when it decides to grant or reject the request made by the officers it will bear in mind their bloody and horrifying actions that went beyond any ethical norms.

Ochoa Antich said, however, that the President Alberto Fujimori's administration has granted asylum to the military officers who landed in Iquitos, Peru.

[Begin Ochoa recording] The Venezuelan Government has stated that the conduct of the officers, noncommissioned officers, soldiers, or troops, who return to the country will be reviewed. We understand that among the officers who fled in the plane is a large number that were only obeying orders or just happened to be involved in the incidents. The Defense Ministry and the proper authorities must review their cases, but they will certainly have the full protection of Venezuela's democratic laws. [end recording]

## Interior, Defense Ministries Further Reduce Curfew

*PA0112011592 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0003 GMT 1 Dec 92*

[Interior Ministry Resolution No. 520 and Defense Ministry Resolution No. 8,418 issued in Caracas on 30 November]

[Text] Republic of Venezuela
Interior Affairs Ministry

General Directorate
Resolution No. 520
30 November 1992

Defense Ministry
General Directorate
Resolution No. 8,418
30 November 1992

Resolution

In accordance with Decree No. 2,668 of 27 November 1992, which suspends several constitutional rights, including the right to free movement or circulation mentioned in Article 64 of the Constitution, and;

Whereas it is the executive branch's duty to conserve and protect the validity of our democratic institutions, the life of our citizens, and public order;

Resolve:

To reduce the ban on the free movement or circulation of individuals and vehicles throughout the national territory to the hours between 0000 and 0500 as of 30 November. This ban will not be applicable to government security corps.

The Interior Ministry and garrison commanders will issue the necessary permits for the circulation of medical and related personnel, firemen, civil defense members, journalists, and other people who request a pass for reasons of public interest and for whom it is deemed necessary by the respective authority. The pass will also be issued to vehicles carrying basic foodstuffs.
[Signed] Interior Affairs Minister Luis Pinerua Ordaz
Defense Minister Ivan Dario Jimenez Sanchez

## Defense Official Denies Missing Fighter Bombers

*PA0112030892 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2347 GMT 30 Nov 92*

[Text] Caracas, 30 Nov (NOTIMEX)—Venezuelan military authorities denied today that two "Mirage" fighter bomber planes, used by the rebels during the foiled coup attempt of 27 November, are missing.

General Nestor Lara, the director of the General Secretariat of the Ministry of Defense, told NOTIMEX "there are no Mirage planes missing. That report is absolutely false."

He added that the only military plane that is beyond the control of the Air Force is the Hercules C-130 cargo plane, in which 98 of the rebels fled to Peru on 27 November. Peru has granted them political asylum.

The Peruvian Government has announced it will return the plane and the weapons with which the rebels fled.

Unofficial reports say that the "disappearance" of the "Mirage" planes prompted the U.S. Government to offer to "scan" Venezuela's airspace to prevent future attacks.

Regarding the number of planes lost during the second uprising in nine months, Lara said the Air Force has not yet completed an inventory of its equipment.

The spokesperson made no comments on the reports published by the Caracas daily EL UNIVERSAL, which reported that seven airplanes were shot down or crashed on 27 November, four of these over Caracas.

## Official on Projects To Repair Miraflores Palace

*PA3011163792 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1420 GMT 30 Nov 92*

[Interview with Diogenes Mujica, Urban Development minister, by Milagros Rodriguez at the Miraflores Palace in Caracas—live]

[Text] [Rodriguez] Here is Urban Development Minister Diogenes Mujica to tell us about the projects to repair the damage caused by the events of 27 November. What projects will be done?

[Mujica] We have several. The first one is to remove the debris. Then we must repair the damage caused by the bombs and machine guns on the building that houses the Honor Guard Regiment. Miraflores Palace did not suffer major damage, although a few ceilings collapsed as a result of the bombs' expansive waves. Some chandeliers also collapsed. In addition, almost all the windows were shattered.

The damage to the building housing the Honor Guard Regiment was extensive, as a bomb went off near the metal sheeting surrounding the building. We must rebuild at least 25 percent of the building. Incendiary bombs ignited some of the soldiers' barracks. The walls of the Honor Guard Regiment building are made of reinforced concrete, which protected the interior of the building. The damage, however, is extensive.

The recreation room was totally destroyed. All of the regiment's inner windows were shattered. We are assessing the damage, which is extensive. The repairs will run into the millions of bolivares. We also visited the Foreign Ministry building. The parking lot was totally destroyed. It is almost a total loss. We are checking on the machinery for the car elevator. Approximately 60 percent of the partition walls, ceilings, and windows were destroyed. We are assessing the damage and will begin the repairs immediately so everything can return to normal. This afternoon, I will go to Channel 8 [Venezolana de Television] to check on the damage to that building. I will not check the equipment—just the damage to the partition walls and structure.

[Rodriguez] Do you know of any more damage, other than what you have mentioned?

[Mujica] Nearby private buildings were damaged in these areas. A building located east of the Honor Guard Regiment sustained a great deal of damage. The Interior Relations Ministry, where the Weapons and Explosives

Directorate is located, also was damaged. The transportation and communications minister and the governor's office are also assessing the destruction to Urdaneta Avenue.

[Rodriguez] Where will the government get the resources to pay for all these projects?

[Mujica] We are working on that. Clearly, it will come from some adjustment in the budget. We will have to set aside other very important projects. Because of this emergency, we must allocate these resources to meet the need to repair the huge damage caused by this terrorist action.

### Red Banner Leader Gabriel Puerta Reportedly Alive

*PA3011133692 Paris AFP in Spanish 1248 GMT 30 Nov 92*

[Excerpt] Caracas, 30 Nov (AFP)—The death of Gabriel Puerta Aponte, top leader of the extreme leftist Venezuelan movement Red Banner, was denied in Caracas by his relatives after Defense Minister General Ivan Jimenez stated the guerrilla leader was killed on 25 November.

Luz Aponte de Puerta and Arelis Puerta Aponte, the guerrilla leader's mother and sister, said he has contacted his relatives and is in good health.

Gabriel Puerta Aponte's mother said she is worried about the fate of another son, Eder de Dios, because she has not heard from him.

Defense Minister Jimenez had reported Gabriel Puerta Aponte was shot to death on 25 November at a clandestine Red Banner camp, two days before the military uprising in Venezuela.

President Carlos Andres Perez and his leading ministers have identified members of the extreme leftist groups Red Banner and Third Path as the civilians who organized the foiled coup d'etat. [passage omitted]

### Inmates Escape During Mutiny at Catia Prison

*PA2711220392 Paris AFP in Spanish 2036 GMT 27 Nov 92*

[Text] Caracas, 27 Nov (AFP)—Police sources have announced that 12 inmates died at the Catia penitentiary, the largest civilian prison in Caracas, and 40 others escaped on 27 November during a mutiny while the military uprising against the government of President Carlos Andres Perez was under way.

Among those who escaped are several very dangerous prisoners, according to the source.

The Catia penitentiary, located in the western part of the Venezuelan capital, is being demolished due to its frightfully overcrowded conditions which have led to a number of violent incidents. Another penitentiary will be built on the Caribbean coast near Caracas.

### National Guardsmen Enter Prison

*PA2911222392 Paris AFP in Spanish 2151 GMT 29 Nov 92*

[Text] Caracas, 29 Nov (AFP)—Approximately 600 to 800 National Guardsmen on the afternoon of 29 November entered Catia Prison, the main one in Caracas, to put an end to the massive jail break that began on 27 November and which has left over 100 dead, according to Caracas Governor Antonio Ledezma.

A National Guard officer said the guardsmen are trying to take over the prison peacefully, particularly the two wings where armed prisoners are resisting.

The source added that officials from the Attorney General's Office are watching over the operation to prevent any excesses. Policemen have surrounded the prison and sharpshooters have taken up positions in nearby buildings, reporters have observed.

### Caracas Governor Comments

*PA2911234792 San Cristobal Ecos del Torbes in Spanish 2308 GMT 29 Nov 92*

[Text] Caracas—Caracas Governor Antonio Ledezma admitted on 29 November that more than 100 inmates were killed at the Catia Penitentiary, the largest prison in Caracas, following an explosive situation unleashed in the penitentiary during the military coup attempt staged on 27 November.

Inmates continued to escape as of 29 November and according to estimates some 80 prisoners have fled. In addition, it has been reported that more than 200 people have been injured.

It had been reported on 27 November that 12 inmates were killed and 40 were able to escape. On 28 November the situation worsened after inmates killed several policemen after grabbing a machine gun, journalists reported. According to the media, on 29 November there were three escape points. Members of the elite police were shooting at inmates who were trying to escape, according to journalists.

In addition, Caracas Governor Antonio Ledezma said in Miraflores Palace on 29 November that Caracas will return to its normal work routine, including bus and subway service. He said he was concerned by the latest incidents at the Catia Penitentiary, where several inmates tried to escape, a situation that was put under control by the security forces deployed to the penitentiary, unfortunately at the expense of many victims.

### Poll Reveals People View Coup Attempt Unfavorably

*PA0112134692 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 30 Nov 92*

[Text] The prestigious firm Omniimagen conducted a survey of 1,800 people in Caracas during the weekend of 28 November regarding the coup attempt on 27 November. The survey is based on the following assessments of conduct: Excellent, very good, good, fair, bad, very bad, and terrible. The initial data processed were for the categories of terrible and excellent.

The question asked of the 1,800 persons surveyed was the following: Regarding the 27 November incidents, grade the actions of the following persons or institutions. Regarding the actions of the coupists, 728 people categorized their behavior as terrible, while only two persons felt their actions were excellent.

Regarding Hugo Chavez, 697 persons felt his conduct was terrible, while only five people deemed it excellent.

Concerning those who took over Channel 8, 984 persons felt their actions were terrible, while no one considered them excellent.

Regarding the aviators who shelled the city, 895 persons considered their conduct was terrible, while no one believed it was excellent.

Regarding the coup leaders, 632 persons felt their behavior was terrible, while only three persons felt their behavior was excellent.

Concerning the looters, 703 persons categorized their actions as terrible, while no one called them excellent.

Regarding the loyalist forces, only seven people viewed their actions as terrible, while 378 thought they acted in an excellent manner.

Only 21 people felt the peoples' conduct was terrible, while 621 people felt the peoples' actions were excellent.

Regarding the performance of the television stations, 778 people felt their performance was excellent, while no one felt they behaved in a terrible manner. The same holds true with journalists. No one thought they behaved in a terrible manner, while 910 persons considered their actions as excellent.

### Poll Shows Congress More Unpopular Than President

*PA2511181692 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2224 GMT 24 Nov 92*

[Text] Caracas, 24 Nov (NOTIMEX)—According to poll results, the Venezuelan Congress—whose Chamber of Congress tried to cut the current presidential term from five to four years—is more unpopular than President Carlos Andres Perez.

The opinion poll revealed that 71 percent of the 20 million Venezuelans in the country rated the work done by Social Democrat President Perez' government between very bad and average.

However, only 57 percent of the 450 people interviewed in eight major Venezuelan cities supported the president's resignation, while 51 percent endorsed the resignation of the country's 210 deputies and 45 senators.

The politicians were rated as the most "useless" and "unpleasant" sector in society by 60 and 54 percent, respectively, of the people polled. The students, who are the main antigovernment activists, obtained 28 percent "acceptance" and 30 percent "solidarity" in the poll.

The poll, which was carried out in September, was prepared by Gauss International and a Venezuelan firm whose owners are Democratic Action (AD) leader Alfredo Bertorelli and current Development Minister Frank de Armas.

The results of this new poll varied from the one carried out in October, which revealed that Perez had a 90-percent rejection rating. However, a scant 6 percent of the people polled said democracy was teetering.

As for the Perez administration, 36 percent of the people polled estimated it would continue unchanged in the following months and 31 percent said it would "get worse."

The investigation estimated there would be a 58 percent abstention rating in the 6 December regional elections. There are 10.3 million citizens authorized to vote. This estimate is similar to the one given by Supreme Electoral Council officials who expect an abstention of between 40 and 45 percent of the voters in the upcoming elections for 22 governors, 250 mayors, and 1,000 municipal officials.

The prediction indicates that apathy will defeat the political parties and the possible candidates for the December 1993 presidential elections. Following the "nobody" selected by 47 percent of the people polled, the main opposition Social Christian Party obtained 24 percent, AD obtained 17 percent, and the leftist Radical Cause Party was chosen by 3 percent of the people polled.

Regarding presidential candidates, 38 percent of the people polled skirted the question, 23 percent favored former Christian Democratic President Rafael Caldera (1969-1974), 6 percent favored opposition leader Eduardo Fernandez, 4 percent favored writer Arturo Uslar, and 3 percent favored AD Claudio Fermin [Caracas mayor].

Caldera who, with Uslar, has insisted that Perez must resign, continues to be the favorite candidate for the presidency in 1994. He has maintained this position since the foiled military coup d'etat in February.

Personal insecurity was considered by 27 percent of the Venzuelans who were polled as the country's main problem, followed by inflation—which reached 31 percent during 1991—with 20 percent and corruption and the economic crisis which obtained 14 percent each.

The television was the "most dependable" media. The opposition EL NACIONAL newspaper, which published the poll, was considered to be the most widely accepted newspaper.

### Foreign Minister on 'Alleged Coup' in Suriname

*PA2511235892 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1550 GMT 25 Nov 92*

[Text] Regarding the alleged coup d'etat in Suriname, Foreign Minister Fernando Ochoa Antich said a few minutes ago at Miraflores Palace that Venezuela will maintain a firm position to defend democratic regimes in the region. Here is what Ochoa Antich said:

[Begin recording] [Ochoa Antich] The national government views with concern the situation currently taking place in Suriname. President Carlos Andres Perez has instructed me to issue an official communique that will be released shortly by the Foreign Ministry.

[Unidentified Reporter] What news do you have on that situation?

[Ochoa Antich] It is a very complicated situation because Commander Desi Bouterse, the commander of the Suriname Army, has displayed an attitude that we view with concern. We consider this attitude as being outside the constitutional order that rules relations between civilian power and the Armed Forces.

[Reporter] What will the Venezuelan Government position be if Bouterse takes over?

[Ochoa Antich] We certainly will take a firm stance, as we always have, in defense of democratic regimes. [end recording]